

RECREATION

— January 1944 —

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The "Coop"

The Cowan Hut

By Captain Maurice M. Witherspoon

Safety in Winter Fun

Are We Solving the Problem?

By James V. Mulholland

How Shall We Curb Delinquency?

By Tam Deering

Volume XXXVII, No. 10

Price 25 Cents

RECREATION

Published by and in the interests of the National Recreation Association
formerly named Playground and Recreation Association of America

Published Monthly

at

315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Subscription \$2.00 per year

RECREATION is on file in public libraries and is indexed in the
Readers' Guide

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Entered as second-class matter June 12, 1929, at the Post Office at New York, New York,
under Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in
Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized May 1, 1924.

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In Preparation for the Birthday of Abraham Lincoln

THE BIRTHDAY of Abraham Lincoln belongs in a peculiar sense to the national recreation movement. Abraham Lincoln felt, as only a few men have, the dignity of the human spirit, the worth of the individual. He was unwilling to see one man force his will or his way of life upon another.

Many have been the movements where one man or a few limited leaders attempt to force their will upon the great mass of the people. There are many leaders even today who feel that they know best what other people should do, what other people should become, just what kind of characters other people should have.

The recreation movement has never attempted to regiment men and women, to set up a mold and to force all different kinds of human beings into this one mold. The leaders of the recreation movement have never believed in attempting by indirection and by concealed methods to make people over according to patterns of life that the people themselves had not chosen and knew nothing about. Such programs have seemed to many of us a fundamental violation of democratic principles and of the Golden Rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Rather the effort has been to establish an atmosphere that would be congenial to the human spirit, to give each man and woman a chance to do the things that he or she wants to do. The leaders in the recreation movement had believed that men and women make greater progress in the climb up to Mount Olympus if they have freedom in their spare time to choose their own paths and try to work out their own destiny. The attempt rather has been to furnish the facilities and the opportunities so that men should not be prevented and held back from fulfilling those desires that are fundamental, that lie deepest, so long as such purposes do not cause harm and difficulty for others.

All this, it seems to me, is in accord with the spirit of Lincoln. Creating an atmosphere of happiness and good will and good cheer, a sense of freedom to live one's own life in one's own way and yet in cooperation with many others to build a common society makes for surer and steadier progress than attempting by decree and legislation to compel people to accept a way of life than seems to us best.

Surely this year no recreation system will fail to observe in some way the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, who stood for brotherhood in all that matters most. The playgrounds and recreation centers of America are a living memorial of the kind of spirit Abraham Lincoln desired to create.

Howard Branch

January



Courtesy Playground and Recreation Department, Los Angeles, California

The Cowan Hut

THE JAPANESE had bombed Adak, Amchitka, Attu, and every other spot in the Aleutian Chain where American troops might be preparing bases. Naturally the Commander of the Alaskan Sector, did not wish to erect large recreation buildings on these islands to be targets for the Honorable Tojo's bombs.

At Sitka, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor, the Navy had built "state-side" gymnasias and motion picture halls comparable to those found in big cities in this country. At Dutch Harbor, a sixty-four team basketball tournament was held last fall; at Kodiak, a forty-eight team basketball tournament. Bowling, badminton, boxing, and every sport known to the American public were scheduled.

As Recreation and Morale Officer on the staff of the Commander, Alaskan Sector, I had been told that permanent or large gymnasias or recreation buildings were taboo at advanced bases. What to do?

Now Adak was our first big advanced base in the Aleutians beyond Dutch Harbor, and Adak was growing up. When February of 1943 came on, we found that the two mess halls plus McKenna Hall (two quonsets joined, making a building 96' x 20') were insufficient to hold the thousands of sailors who were arriving in Adak for duty and who wanted to attend the movies and church services, as well as to exercise and play games. The problem was to find

The Navy's answer to a hard problem— recreation centers at advanced bases

By Captain MAURICE M. WITHERSPOON
Chaplain Corps, U. S. Navy

some sort of building that would accommodate the crowd but wouldn't make a target for enemy bombers. The quonsets (American name for Nissen huts), half barrel shaped, were too small for our purposes, nor were the CCC barracks satisfactory; we had lifted three CCC camps bodily from Washington and Oregon and had dragged them to Alaska!

Pondering the problem of recreation buildings, I made a special trip to Seattle to talk over the matter with Captain A. D. Alexis of the Civil Engineer Corps. He showed me some warehouses and cold storage plants, 40' x 100', made of Cowan huts, whose structure was strand steel. I saw no reason why they shouldn't broaden their scope, and with the permission of the Admiral I ordered five for immediate delivery.

Happy and flushed with the success of my mission, I returned to Adak, where I vainly scanned the horizon for my consignment. Since time would not stand still, and my public was clamoring for its

Manhattan Center, I located a Cowan hut that had been earmarked for a torpedo base and got it immediately by promising to replace it with one of my "five on order."

This hut had to be erected by volunteer labor since it was not on the priority list. First we used the band of twenty-four pieces which was brought up from Sitka for the purpose. When I met Bandmaster Boscola in Kodiak he said to me, "Chaplain,

When completed, the Cowan hut measures 40' x 100' plus 40' x 40' in the rear with a gear room, two dressing rooms, and space for properties, band instruments, church gear, and other equipment



I need two saxophones and I'll have the best band in Alaska!" "You won't need them very soon," I told him, "for you'll have to build your Carnegie Hall before you can play in it," and I began issuing his men hammers, saws, shovels, and other tools. In return for one of my fieriest sermons aboard one of the ships in port, the Captain, an old shipmate of mine, gave me ten carpenters' mates for ten days to work on the Cowan hut. From the Army Quartermaster Corps, in exchange for two "pep" talks, I got the loan of a bulldozer, a machine that assumes terrible importance in Alaskan building operations.

I was indeed fortunate to have as my assistant in recreation at Adak, in that important period, Lieutenant Commander George O'Brien, USNR, the ex-movie star. He was fresh from the San Diego Training Station where he had gained fifty pounds since abandoning the movies. We had expected to see him alight from the plane, smoking revolvers in each hand. Instead, clutched in his fists, he had scores of clippings about the wonders of Tex Ritter, the cowboy movie star. This was

The theater of the building serves as a gymnasium, and here basketball and similar sports are played



A popular feature is the new library with its supply of books and magazines

real ammunition for our diplomatic task of building, as it just "happened" that the Executive Officer of the Seabees in Adak was none other than Tex's brother.

Three Agonizing Weeks

Everyone cooperated. It was our first great effort—the first Cowan hut to be used for recreation purposes. Three weeks saw its completion—three weeks in which we all learned a lot. Those were agonizing and trying moments when the "williwaws," that unpredictable, powerful Alaskan wind, whipped and twisted the arching strands of steel we were trying to set into the concrete floor. Covering over with galvanized iron and camouflaging were fairly simple processes. The interior was lined with "nu-wood," pressed pulp wood which comes in big sheets. Heating was a big problem. At first we used oil stoves; later on we installed steam heat. Since the Cowan huts were originally intended for warehouses, there was no system of ventilation. We used blower fans, and it was a real problem to get fans up to the Aleutians.

Every inch of space counted

as we had so many customers to accommodate. The projection booth didn't cut the length of the building as we had raised it over the audience. At first we planned to put the stage inside, but that consumed twenty feet of precious space, so we added a leanto behind the hut for the stage, and in front of the building we added the office of the Motion Picture Sub-Exchange. By means of these dodges we managed to increase the seating capacity from 525 to 600.

Dedicating the Hut

The Cowan hut, constructed by the more or less voluntary labor of bandsmen, sailors, soldiers, and barbers under the supervision of a cowboy movie star, had aroused so much interest that everyone from the Admiral down agreed that it must be properly christened. The only way to mark the occasion fittingly was to bring girls to Adak—the first girls to set foot on that soil since the Aleutians were used for a bridge to bring primitive Asiatics to America! The Commander, Alaskan Sector, and the Alaskan Defense Command were in accord in our bringing the USO troop extraordinary: four glamour girls, all singers and dancers, who for seven months had been daring the Alaskan wilds, were booked for the opening.

There is a saying that "There is a girl behind every tree in the Aleutians, but there are no trees!" So we had to bring up four pine trees from Kodiak to plant in front of our Cowan hut when the four girls arrived. It was a gala premiere and never-to-be-forgotten by the 2,500 who attended the first day. (Seating capacity, 600.) From then on there always seemed to be a queue of men running all the way around the hut. Some of our most enthusiastic patrons were the Canadian combat teams who had arrived for the proposed invasion of Kiska; we showed movies to a thousand of them every morning by holding shows at eight and at ten.

At the time I was transferred from Alaska, "Blackjack Hall," as we had named the hut (whether for Admiral "Blackjack" Reeves or for Admiral "Blackjack" Fletcher was never determined), was being used from morning to night for educational and commercial films, for entertainments, band practice, church services, USO shows, and even for setting-up exercises. About this time my "five on order" Cowan huts arrived and were distributed to Amchitka, Attu, and other advanced bases. One was retained at Adak to be converted into an enlisted men's club. The first

Cowan hut in Amchitka was called the "Sea Otter" in honor of the famous furbearing animal of that name native to the island's waters. The first hut on Attu, erected shortly after the battle, was named the "Barabara," which means Aleut Hut; it is a native name for the underground sod houses in which the Aleutians lived for years and which the Japanese copied when they dug into Attu and Kiska. The purpose of the Barabara in Attu is noted in the opening program:

Welcome Army and Navy

The purpose of *The Barabara* is to furnish a suitable building for the type of clean, wholesome relaxation and recreation which American soldiers and sailors desire and deserve. Not only will the latest motion pictures obtainable be shown each evening at *The Barabara*, but live talent programs featuring Army and Navy entertainers will add pleasant variety. It is the hope of our Commanding Officer that all Naval personnel, and as many of our Army neighbors as possible, will take advantage of the facilities of *The Barabara*. Use it and enjoy it.

Army Nights

There will be two shows each evening but Sunday. The first show will be at 1900 and the second at 2100. Sunday performance will be at 2100. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the early show Army personnel will be given first choice of seats. Naval personnel will be permitted to occupy vacant seats, after the Army has been seated. On every other day in the week, Naval personnel will be permitted first choice of seats at the early show, with the Army filling in vacancies. Army and Navy personnel will be given equal choice of seats at the second show each night.

After the initial opening, the value of the Cowan hut for an advanced base was established. Ten more were immediately ordered and then ten more. The Navy really went into the Cowan hut business! These huts have not been found suitable for a multiple purpose building, and so at each place where a large group of men are stationed, there is now one for a theater and entertainment hall, and one to be used exclusively for a gymnasium.

These buildings make ideal gymnasias where basketball courts can be marked off, where volley ball, handball, and all other intramural sports can be played. Setting-up exercises can be given in the building and they are generally proving their usefulness in this fogbound group of islands. This winter, with the Japanese no longer in the vicinity, and with little danger of their returning except on an occasional bombing raid, the Cowan hut will be the means of furnishing entertainment, recreation, and exercise for the Army and Navy on American isles closest to the enemy.



Courtesy Newark, N. J., Evening News

The "Coop"

The young people of Summit, New Jersey, drew up a code of cooperation from which evolved the name of the center

THE HIGH SCHOOL doors burst open and the air was soon filled with shouts of: "Let's go to the Coop." "I bet I'll beat you in ping-pong today." "Out of my way, I'm working at the bar today." "There's more fun at the Coop—let's go there."

Where is the steady stream of boys and girls going? What's all the excitement about? And what is this "Coop"?

Last spring Miss Jessie Dotterer, director of the Hobby Hall Dancing School, had an idea. The boys and girls of Summit, she decided, needed a place where they could meet afternoons, have some fun, play ping-pong, and drink cokes. And it was because of this idea that the Coop started.

When four rooms adjoining Miss Dotterer's study became vacant, the project really began to materialize. News about the center traveled fast and Miss Dotterer soon found that applications for membership were coming in before definite plans had been formulated. It was therefore decided to hold a rally on May 21, 1943. Enthusiasm reached a high point at this meeting, and over 300 boys and girls signed up to take an active part. An executive committee was formed and a dance planned for June 4th at the high school to raise money to pay the expenses of decorating the rooms.

Soon the decorating began; a juke box was installed; and chairs, card tables, ping-pong tables, and other furniture donated by citizens of Summit turned the rooms into a comfortable center. A soft drink bar was set up.

The center, it was planned, would be open afternoons and during the evening for special events. It

would be a place where boys and girls could enjoy activities together, but it would also be a service center.

It was with the service motive in mind that the young people themselves drew up the following creed which each member signed:

I Want to Cooperate

1. With other members

In making and keeping our headquarters a place to be proud of.

2. With my family

In helping them adjust home living to war needs and by not taking advantage of the present situation.

3. With my town

In respecting its property and the will of the community of which I am a part.

4. With my country

In giving some of my free time to volunteer war work. In putting 10 per cent of money personally *earned* by me in war stamps.

Out of the Creed came the name of the center. Since cooperation was to be the fundamental objective, it was a logical step to the name, "The Coop."

Summit, New Jersey, has a teen age center. So have many other communities in America. But there are a number of features about the Summit center so definitely the creation of the young people themselves that you will want to read about them.

During the summer of 1943, the "cooperators" conducted their activities with interest growing every day. Late in August Miss Dotterer approached H. S. Kennedy, Director of Recreation, and asked for help. The Coop had outgrown its quarters; Miss Dotterer would not be able to give as much time to the project as would be necessary during the winter months, and assistance was needed. The problem was presented to the Board of Recreation Commissioners, who agreed unanimously to cooperate with the young people and authorized the director of recreation and his assistant to give all help possible.

The next problem was to find new headquarters. A group of about fifteen boys and girls representing the different age groups at the center, together with Miss Dotterer and the director of recreation, solved this problem by finding new quarters in a modern building located in the center of the city which had been vacated by a furnishing company. The space available consisted of two floors and a basement room. The manager of the estate owning the building was approached, and after hearing the story told by the young people he agreed to rent the quarters at a very nominal fee and to provide the heat.

A meeting was then called of the executive com-

mittee which had begun calling itself the "Junior Board." This group consisted of members of the original committee and others recommended by Miss Dotterer. The problem was put up to the boys and girls as to how money was to be raised each month to pay rent and operating expenses, estimated at \$175. It was decided to recommend to the membership that dues be paid of 50 cents a month, with an initiation fee of 25 cents for all new members and for old members who fail to pay their October dues before the first of the month.

At this meeting plans were made to hold a rally in the new quarters for all former members and to present the plans recommended by the board. Plans for the opening night dance on October 1st and for an open house on the same afternoon were discussed, and the following working committees were selected: membership and finance, and a committee for cleaning up the new quarters, moving in the furniture from the old rooms, and making a number of alterations.

Business discussed at the rally held on September 24th included the acceptance of the recommendations of the executive committee and the appointment of Dorothy Phillips as the director of the Coop.

(Continued on page 582)



Courtesy Newark, N. J., Evening News

What They Say About Recreation

"TO FIND OUR PLEASURES in simple things, to get our satisfaction from the non-competitive sources open to us all, to revel in noble music, to rediscover the joys of good conversation, good friendships, good homes — such is the kind of play that recreates our wasted powers." — Dr. Ralph W. Sockman.

"The right kind of recreation offers release from tensions, the relaxation of energy, poise and morale." — Leona D. Galloway.

"People cannot put forth their greatest effort if there is no relaxation, no doing of the things they love to do and out of which they get recreation, determination, and renewed strength." — From the Butte, Montana, *Standard*.

"The most needed consideration today is youth and its recreational problems. We have had legislation in years past to improve the hogs and other livestock and much has been done to improve corn and grains, but what have we done for the betterment of our youth?" — F. Grace Johnson in the *Des Moines Register*.

"It is essential for the strengthening and maintenance of national morale and the spirit of victory that there shall be not diminution, but increase in the use of patriotic and inspirational music." — From the *National Music Council*.

"Greater opportunities for recreation must be made available for those of us on the home front despite the war pressure America is under. No one should be permitted to persuade us that we can get along without wholesome recreation for everyone." — H. R. Hastings in the *Journal of Health and Physical Education*.

"Every study of the recreational life of youth indicates that only a small percentage of our young people is being reached by either a public or private leisure-time agency." — From *The Administration of Y.M.C.A. Boys' Work*.

"America tomorrow must produce the implements of peace as never before. To do this effectively it will need a new standard of recreation for all the nation." — David O. Woodbury in *Collier's*.

"Recreation, with the change of pace and release and replenishment that it means, is an absolutely vital part of the war effort. Army and Navy men, factory heads, welfare workers, know that men and women starved for fun are as hungry as if they were starved for food — and as unhealthy." — Eleanor Hard Lake in *Junior League Magazine*.

"Recreation of the right sort can provide workers with new interests to replace the old. It can do much to keep their lives normal and balanced." — From *Spare Time, a War Asset for War Workers*.

"We at home need something to keep our minds swept as free as possible from worry, to help us to be cheerful, optimistic persons for the sake of those about us. And simple parties, planned for and suited to the times, will go far to do this." — Louise Price Bell in *Parties in Wartime*.

"Music unifies the emotions and thoughts of people. Music can make people strong and unafraid. While listening to music is pleasureable, it does not produce the same emotions or feelings that the personal participation in music can." — Otis J. Mumaw in *We Need Group Singing*.

"Let all men and women begin with some personal hobby, merging their private likes with those of others similarly minded, and before very long they will find through these avenues all of the satisfactions which marching in uniform gave them." — Sydney Greenbie in *War and Leisure*.

"Teen-age young people need a program of recreation. As far as possible it should be their program, planned in cooperation with them, depending upon them for as much leadership as they can give, and adapted to their basic need of wholesome association with persons of both sexes." — From *Christian Youth in Wartime Service*.

Youth Wants to Live

YOU KNOW, it really surprised me when President Braucher of the National Recreation Association requested me to write an article for this magazine, telling what I believe young people like and desire in the way of recreation. In the first place, I never thought anyone who wasn't an authority on anything ever wrote anything anyhow! But then I thought, well, I guess I must be an "authority" on youth because I'm part of youth itself. With that bit of egotism upholding my hand, I am about to give you a few of my own personal ideas on the subject.

Ever since I was just a kid in grade school I have pricked up my ears to the cry, "dead place—nothing doing—no place to go—no one to talk to—no excitement." When I reached high school this theory was no longer a cry, but a shout, the impassioned appeal of YOUTH.

I thought to myself, "I've been hearing this all my life, something ought to be done about it." With this in mind, I have made rather a careful survey of what youth seeks in the way of a good time.

What Youth Wants

First, youth wants to be *seen* as well as heard. Young men and young women, as well as boys and girls of teen age want to go somewhere and talk, laugh, and play together. It may be the corner drugstore; it might be the local ice cream parlor or a city playground. It might be at some "popular" young person's house. It can be anywhere that is convenient and to any degree "pleasant."

I have found that *attention* is that thing that changes a dull time to a gay

**Young people are eager for life—
for themselves and for others**

By DOROTHEA NELSON

**Secretary to the State Secretary
of the Y.M.C.A., New Hampshire**

time. A young (or older) person might go to the most beautiful and glamorously gay spot in an equally thrilling city, but if he or she receives little or no attention the place is "dead." Incidentally, this latter fact should be considered when hostesses are chosen for community centers, USO's, or canteens. These organizations need people who are going to sense shyness in young people and who are going to help them to make new friends and have a good time. I have noticed that too often so-called hostesses just sit around making no apparent effort to introduce bashful boys and girls, thus making the social aspect of the situation almost unbearable. I know; I've "been there."

Young people like to get together and talk over important questions of the day. They like to "sound" each other out and above all, **TALK!** My friends like to go swimming, bowling, dancing, and dining. They like to see good movies, all types of

sports, and they enjoy participating in these sports, too. They like to go to good concerts and lectures. Youth today is seeking a high level of culture in entertainment. The average boy and girl of today like the "real thing" and will not lower themselves to cheap imitations. I speak of the youth that thinks and lives and desires all that is good and beautiful of the world. These young folks don't want to be always on the receiving end and never on the "giving," however. They will put on programs to entertain others. They will work hard to build themselves a community center and maintain it, if they are just encouraged a little and given the support of their older friends.



Gedde Harmon

For two years I have been president of the Greater Concord Youth Council which serves hundreds of Protestant young people and works for the good of *all* young people—whether Catholic, Protestant or Jewish. As president of the Council, I wrote some articles in our local newspaper regarding the necessity of a community center for Concord. I received all sorts of responses—encouraging and discouraging. I *still* think we need this center, and we're going to have it, if it takes me all my life to see the project through! Naturally, I was pleased to be elected to the New Hampshire Recreation Council. As a Council member I shall do all I can to see this dream come true.

As I write this, I think of a statement made by George Bernard Shaw to the effect that "youth is such a priceless thing—it's a pity to waste it on young people." I think I understand what the great satirist means. While we have the energy and gaiety of our years, we do not always have the mature judgment and discretion of our elders. This is, unfortunately, true; but perhaps *that* is why we are gay! We can impart this to those of the older generations who will live along with us and become enthusiastic when we are, and serious when we deem it necessary. We must look to our older friends, however, for guidance and approval; for it is certainly not our desire to be unwise in our actions.

We, the youth, are eager for life. We yearn for interest and sympathetic advisers. Youth wants to live and help others to share the exuberance of living.

I have argued many, many times with those old-school, pessimistic believers who are staunchly positive that "youth is going to the dogs." If it is, throw me a bone, I'm going with it! Youth is as fine as it ever was—even more so, in that they crave greater and bigger things than our grandmothers and grandfathers ever dreamed attainable.

Our present juvenile delinquency problem is the result of a lack of interest in children and teen age young people. No one "cared." Now everyone cares—almost too late. We've got to show these young folks that we *are* interested in where they are going and we've got to help them to achieve the right goal. "Day schools" are a fine example of what can be done to help.

I have found, too, that youth doesn't—as a general thing—want to be "bad." To the mind of the average boy and girl, drinking and gambling are bad practices and not what youth wants. I have asked young people "why did you do it?"

The answer is always the same "nothing else to do—town is dead—have to do something for excitement—nobody cares."

If the churches and the community could only work together to make these young people realize that they *are* important, then certainly the next generation has something to which it well may look forward. A war, terrible and all-engrossing though it is, is certainly no reason for neglecting our youth. After the smoke has cleared, after the guns have silenced, we all want our boys to come back to a world that is not embittered or hardened. We want them to return to a human and sympathetic people whose youth is fine and strong, whose spirits are not crushed, and whose eagerness to live is great.

Recreation offers these young people, as well as older people, a chance to really live—a chance to share with others a rich and wholesome experience. We do not want the souls of our young folk to become musty, dark cellars, but rather prisms of light and beauty. We must heed their call. I, as a young person, must help my generation not only to win this war but to remain steadily on its feet in time of war and suffering.

To those of you who *are* youth—in body and in spirit—I beg of you do not let another young (or even older) person in your community become lonely. Talk to that person, take him or her into your homes. Go to good dances, good movies, and good parties. See good basketball games and football games. To the older people, with youthful spirits I say—heed the plea of the younger generation. Take it to heart, carry it with you and *do* something about it. Don't give youth a chance to feel neglected now—especially those who are too young to join the armed forces or to work. They need the affection and the interest of all of us.

Let us be strong and helpful, for when the light of a new day dawns, we shall want our youth to be standing high above the ruins with a grim but great determination to carry on.

"Youth cannot thrive in a fixed world. They find so much that needs changing, so much that seems stupid, so much they cannot understand. They long to try their hand on this old world, to twist it their own way even though they are not very clear what the way might be. . . . Their eager minds cannot accept our weary, 'Let it be.' Youth is endowed with a new vision, and while it annoys the elders, it is by its force that the world progresses."—*Angelo Patri.*

Safety in Winter Fun



Courtesy Minneapolis Park Board

SAFETY AID CLUBS on each of the park playgrounds of Minneapolis are popular additions to the program. Because sliding or coasting ranks so high in favor with the city's children, each playground has a Coast Guard Division of the Safety Aids. Coasting presents many safety problems especially in parks where there are many good hills and just as many trees. During the coasting season Coast Guards are on duty helping the little children find safe places to slide and doing their best to combat the saboteur of play—the accident.

A few of the rules issued by the Recreation Department of the Park Board follow:

Safety for General Skating

No one should be allowed on the skating rink without skates.

Keep dogs off the skating rink.

Keep sleds and sticks of all kinds off the skating rink.

Do not play games of tag or prisoner's base on skating rink.

Crack the whip is not a game for the ice rink.

Do not skate too fast on the rink, keep your speed for the speed track.

If you cannot skate well, keep to the center of the rink, then you will not be a hazard to the other skaters.

Be careful in handling skates when they are not being worn. The skates should be strapped together and should be carried under the arm when skater is coming to or leaving the rink.

Skate *with* the crowd on the rink and not *against* it.

Stay off all rinks until the proper authorities declare them safe for skating.

Safety Hints for Snow Hockey

Always keep brooms low—below waist level.

Broom handles must not be too long and should be padded.

Substitute, if possible, an extra warm sweater or jacket while playing; then your outside jacket will be dry and prevent chills and a bad cold.

Frost bitten toes and fingers may result if you stay out too long.

Do not crowd the goalie—to keep from being hit with the broom.

Stand and run erect—to prevent being hit with broom.

Keep playing space free from ice patches to prevent slipping.

The referee's whistle should always be taped to prevent burning of the lips.

Safety in Winter Hiking and Skiing

Skiing

Avoid skiing with faulty equipment — be sure bindings, skis and poles are in good condition.

Choose a hill to ski on that is suitable to your ability and has good snow.

Learn controlled skiing; never attempt feats that are beyond your ability; learn first how to check your speed and stop.

When walking with ski equipment carry the poles fastened together with the points forward and toward the ground. Do not carry them over your shoulder. Avoid making sudden turns which might cause you to thrust the tip of the pole or skis into someone.

When using a tow, beware of loose flying clothing such as scarfs, open jackets, and take the proper grip of the rope. If there is no one to guide you at the bottom of the tow be sure you allow enough space between you and the fellow ahead so in case he falls you have time to get out of his way.

"Track" is the ski term for clearing the path. If you hear the word get out of the way; if someone is in your path, call "track."

Clothing—several thin layers of woolen clothing give the best protection against cold. Boots should fit properly and big enough to allow for several pair of socks; tight enough to prevent rubbing blisters or spraining an ankle.

Mittens should be of wool worn under a leather or gabardine pair.

For frozen parts avoid rubbing snow on the part affected. Let the part thaw out gradually, *i.e.* if a hand is frozen place it in the opposite arm pit and let it gradually return to body temperature.

Hiking

Hikes should always be scouted by the leader before taken. In the winter be sure to watch out for dangerous icy trails, steps, etc.

Clothing precautions should be the same as that outlined for skiing.

Frozen parts of the body should be treated as before mentioned.

Avoid throwing snowballs, chunks of frozen snow, etc., on hikes as well as at all other times.

Take special precautions when crossing icy highways and roads.

Start hikes earlier to avoid hiking across fields and along highways after dark. If a night hike is scheduled, wear light colored clothes which may be easily seen by motorists.

Safety in Hockey

Play with boys of similar age, size, and experience.

Hockey is too strenuous a game for boys with heart disorders.

Playing until exhausted is unhealthy — always remember your rest periods.

Maintain healthy living habits—this will make you strong enough to play such a strenuous game.

Wearing ankle braces does not give your ankles enough exercise to become strong.

Obtain and wear as much of necessary equipment as possible — especially knee pads, shin guards, elbow pads, hip pads.

When falling to the ice, keep body relaxed.

Much injury to others can be prevented by keeping stick below hips at all times.

Sticks with nails protruding and broken edges are dangerous to others.

Learn how to dribble puck without looking at it — accomplishing this will enable you to keep your head up to see where you are going.

In practice, skating pell-mell all over the rink is a sure way to incur injuries.

In bodily contact with other players, keep elbows and hands out in front of you to "cushion" the blow.

Mere body blocking is safer and much more effective than vicious charging and rough body checking.

Always remember that attempting to injure opponents will result in the enmity of others and injury to yourself in the end.

Outline of Coast Guards

Ten points for prompt attendance at meetings, wearing badge and courteous participation.

Ten points for new mem-

(Continued on page 576)

The activities of the Safety Aid Clubs, which are proving to be such helpful and dependable service groups in aiding the playground director, will be described in detail in a future issue of *RECREATION* by Miss Loretta Garvin, Assistant Director of Women's Activities, Recreation Department, Board of Park Commissioners, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

To the Ladies!

WASHINGTON and Lincoln weren't the only famous people born in the month of February. The history book tells us that this month numbered as many as six important women who, as women suffragettes or advocates of higher education, carved quite a name for themselves in our nation's history.

So why not a February party in their honor? This will be something new in the way of social entertainment—a gay old-fashioned affair with just the right mixture of fun and timely activities.

You'll have a good time reverting to your childhood days when you used to cut out paper dolls—this time these colorful figures, in the shape of old-fashioned ladies dressed in hoop skirts, bustles, leg o'mutton sleeves, and bonnets, will be the basis for your invitations.

As this is a February party for famous women, a little poem on the front of the cutout written in fine delicate script will be most appropriate. It might go something like this:

"Let Lincoln and Washington have their days,
It's the women so famous to whom we give praise,
They, too, were born when February came
So let's celebrate each by name—
Miss Palmer, Miss Willard, Miss Lyon, and
Miss Shaw,
Miss Blackwell, Miss Anthony, and yes, many
more."

In the line of decorations, transform your living room into a scene right out of the 1800's when these famous women were fighting for women suffrage, higher education, and other "causes." Dust off those old oil lamps and place them in strategic places around the rooms. If these lamps aren't available, how about adding that old-fashioned touch by dressing up the regular light fixtures with crepe paper ruffles of bright colors?

Modern framed pictures will be out for this party so substitute the heavy-framed pictures of your ancestors—and scatter around the room smaller pictures and family albums which include



By **RACHEL WEISBERGER**
National Recreation Association

Here's a party that really is different, for it's not George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who are in the lime-light, but Susan B. Anthony, Emma Willard, Mary Lyon, and other famous women with birthdays in February

the humorous "when mother was a girl" snapshots. For the windows and doorway use hanging drapes with decorative fringes. Scatter lots of plump feather pillows on all the chairs and place old-time crocheted tidies or

antimacassars on every appropriate piece of furniture. Drag out the old-fashioned vases and cookie jars and fill them with festive bunches of artificial flowers.

Throughout the room, place large hand-designed placards and posters containing such messages as "Votes for Women," "Pioneers of the National American Women Suffrage Association," and others—just to remind your guests of the famous women whose birthdays you're celebrating. For the leaders of higher education—Mary Lyon, Emma Willard, and Alice Freeman Palmer—pictures of college buildings and old college year-books on the tables will bring their names to mind.

Some Activities

Name Charades. Here's a quick but fun-provoking way of getting acquainted with everyone at the party after all the guests have finally arrived. Make up two teams, with the hostess acting as timekeeper. Each member of both sides, in rotation, will get up and act out the syllables of his or her first and last names, using no speech, just gestures. Members of the other team will have to guess the name while the timekeeper keeps a record of how long it takes to guess correctly. After all the guests have acted out their names and are properly identified, the hostess will announce the winning team—the one which has the least number of minutes to its record.

A Birthday Hunt. Since this is a birthday party, this game will be most appropriate. On small slips of paper write the names, birthday, and a brief biographical sentence about the six famous women born in February. With these slips mix the names

of famous people born in other months—Thomas Jefferson, Florence Nightingale, Robert Fulton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others. Hide the slips about the room and at a given signal tell all the guests to start on a Birthday Hunt. At the end of ten minutes, the guests must cease searching and count the slips they have found. Those finding the ones with February birthdays must read them aloud, and if anyone has found more than one such slip he is declared the winner. The prize may be a small birthday book.

Here are the names of the six famous women born in February:

3rd—Elizabeth Blackwell, 1821-1910, a pioneer advocate of women suffrage

14th—Anna Howard Shaw, 1847-1919, leader in the cause of women suffrage, and preacher

15th—Susan B. Anthony, 1820-1906, pioneer women suffragette

21st—Alice Freeman Palmer, 1855-1902, leader in college education for women; president of Wellesley College

23rd—Emma Hart Willard, 1787-1870, pioneer of higher education for women and wrote the hymn "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep"

28th—Mary Lyon, 1797-1849, pioneer advocate of higher education for women; founder of Mount Holyoke Seminary

Travel at Home. Just as it was difficult to travel around the country in the days of Susan B. Anthony and Mary Lyon, it is even more important that wartime travel be restricted today as much as possible. But here's a game that can take your guests all over the United States while they are comfortably seated in the living room.

All the players are sitting on chairs arranged in a circle, with the one who is "It" standing in the center. "It" points to one of the players, calling out the name of a state, and begins to count. The person pointed to must give the name of a city in that state before "It" counts to ten. If a player can't answer by then, he or she changes places with "It" and takes it out on someone else!

Musical Line by Line. This musical game will fit right in with the historical, sentimental mood of the festivities. Before the party, write out the lines of some old-fashioned songs with each line on a separate piece of paper. Keep the first line of each chorus but pin the other slips to curtains or pillows or place them behind pictures with one end of the paper showing. Then divide your guests into teams, one team for each song.

One person on the team is bandmaster. Give him the slip of paper on which is written the first line of the chorus of one of the songs. With the help of the other players on his team, he must find the other lines and complete the song. The bandmaster, however, is the only member of the team who can take any of the slips of paper from the places where they are hidden. The other players help hunt for them, and when they find one they call the leader to the place by shouting or singing the first line of the chorus of their team song. Also, if the bandmaster spies one of the lines he is looking for, he is not allowed to pick it up until after one of the members of his group discovers it.

A prize is awarded to the team which first completes its song. Then each of the groups must sing one verse of their particular song, while the others join in the chorus.

Here are a few suggestions of songs that may be used for this game:

<i>A Pretty Girl</i>	<i>Tell Me, Pretty Maiden</i>
<i>The Band Played On</i>	<i>I'll Take You Home Again,</i>
<i>I'm Always Chasing Rain-</i>	<i>Kathleen</i>
<i>bows</i>	<i>Waiting for the Robert E.</i>
<i>Silver Threads Among the</i>	<i>Lee</i>
<i>Gold</i>	<i>Sweet Genevieve</i>

Can You Remember? While your guests are in the looking back mood, try this memory game on them. Line the players up in two teams and proceed like in a spelling match, asking one player the question and charging all others to be silent. If he doesn't answer it correctly, pass on to the next, and so on through both teams. Some of the "questions and answers" might be:

1. What was the battle cry during the Spanish-American war? "Remember the Maine."
2. Who wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*? Harriet Beecher Stowe.
3. Name the three martyr Presidents. Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley.
4. Who was designated as the greatest American soldier during World War I? Alvin York.
5. Who was called "Old Hickory"? Andrew Jackson.
6. What organization has the slogan, "Be Prepared"? Boy Scouts.
7. Who took a twenty-year sleep on a hillside? Rip van Winkle.
8. Who was the commander of the "Rough Riders"? Theodore Roosevelt.
9. Of whom was it said, "There he stands like a stone wall"? Stonewall Jackson.
10. Who said, "All I know is what I read in the newspapers"? Will Rogers.

Light My Candle. Harking back to the days when candles were one of the most popular means

of illumination, here is a novel candle relay. Line up the men along one wall of the room, each with an unlighted candle in his hand. Opposite them, at the other end of the room, line up the girls each with a box of matches.

At the command "Fire," each girl strikes a match and then runs to light her partner's candle. When a match goes out, the girls must go back to the starting line and strike another. She must not start running until the match is lighted. The girl who gets a candle lighted first is the winner, but the game continues until all the men have a light. (Care must be taken to guard against fire.)

What "Age" Have You? Back to the birthday theme—and all birthdays have to do with AGE—how about a word game that will test the vocabulary of your guests. Supply pencils and paper for the players and have them number from one to ten or as many questions as you want to ask.

Then read a list of questions which the players must answer with a word ending in "-age." The one with the longest list of correct answers wins and as a prize, present him with a gayly wrapped box of birthday candles. Some of the questions which might be included are:

1. A long journey—pilgrimage
2. Paid to our guests of honor—homage
3. Caused by bombs—damage
4. Handed down to us—heritage
5. The right to vote—suffrage
6. Used by the Red Cross—bandage
7. What we all need to face trouble—courage
8. Now curtailed on the highway—mileage
9. Ahead of us all—dotage
10. The now popular transportation—carriage

Tandem Race. Reminiscent of "bicycle built for two" days is this humorous race. Each team is made up of four couples. Members of each team are asked to form a single column with partners facing each other. Partners place hands on each other's shoulders. The man has his back to the goal line.

At the signal, the first couple in each team proceeds to the goal, the man going backward and the girl forward. They go around their own chair on the goal line, come back and touch off the next couple, and then return to the end of the line.

You can vary this game by arranging guests in columns of couples, facing front. Each two couples in turn join hands to form a hollow square, all of them facing the goal. The first double tandem walks to the goal line, returns, touches off the next double tandem, and goes to the end of the line.

This continues until the first double tandem is back in its original position.

Arcades. Your party won't have a dull moment in it if you introduce a merry mixup game sometime during the evening.

Half of the guests will be in couples anywhere in the room. Partners face each other and join hands to make an arch. The rest of the guests are in the center of the room, and at a signal they rush to get inside an arch. Since only one person is allowed inside an arch there will be an overflow, and these extras go to the center of the room.

The arches are numbered from one up to four, five, or six, and the partners tell their number to each person who comes into their arch. The leader starts the action by calling for certain numbers to change places. "All threes change arches!" and the players inside arches numbered three change places. The extras, of course, try to beat them to an empty arch.

"All out!" is the signal for all players inside arches to change arches. After three or four rounds the players inside arches change places with one of the players forming an arch. A few rounds later this is repeated with the other end of the arch so that everyone may have a chance at activity.

Famous Party Guests. The famous women of February have invited several equally noted men and women to their party and it will be up to your guests to find out who they are. With paper and pencil each player makes a list of ten well-known persons. Then he describes these persons with words that begin with the initials of the names themselves.

Everyone reads his descriptions for others to identify and the person who can name the greatest number wins. Here are a few suggestions for names to be used:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A Liberator | Abraham Lincoln |
| 2. Surprises Children | Santa Claus |
| 3. Wrote Sonnets | William Shakespeare |
| 4. Clever Comedian | Charlie Chaplin |
| 5. Sometimes Wore Raincoat | Sir Walter Raleigh |
| 6. Great Warrior | George Washington |
| 7. Writes Words | Walter Winchell |
| 8. Betrayed Army | Benedict Arnold |
| 9. Crafty Circumnavigator | Christopher Columbus |
| 10. For Democratic Right | Franklin Delano Roosevelt |

Refreshments—Last, But Not Least!

The refreshment table may be sectioned off with little placards indicating different college courses

(Continued on page 581)

Volley Ball in 1944

WHEN A HIGH ranking Naval officer returned from a recent recreational and physical education inspection tour of the Pacific area, he reported that softball and volley ball took top honors in popularity and participation with the United States armed forces. Most large ships and all carriers are the locale for regular games and matches. He further reported that it was not at all uncommon to see a volley ball court hacked into the dense jungle and hot matches in progress wherever a group of United States men were assembled. Volley ball has also played an important role in the recreation program in most officer candidate schools and regular training camps. Literally millions of players have turned to the game for enjoyment and companionship. While many people are learning to play and enjoy the game, very few are learning to play it well. What can be done about it?

It was with this question in mind, plus the knowledge that the usual national volley ball tournaments are out for the duration, that the United States Volley Ball Association did some special planning at its annual meeting last June.

"We need a wartime substitute for our regular national championships that will focus attention on physical fitness, playing skill, and appreciation of the game, will provide recreational release and make it possible to determine national champions without having persons travel on crowded trains or use a pint of gas or an ounce of precious rubber," said Dr. George J. Fisher, president of the United States Volley Ball Association.

A special committee was named and given Dr. Fisher's specifications to use in designing such an event. The results of the committee's work is explained in the new 1944 Volley Ball Guide just off the press, published by A. S. Barnes and Company, 67 West 44th Street, New York City—called "The 1944 National Volley Ball Skills Meet." In brief it is a stay-at-home contest scheduled for the month of March 1944 designed to measure playing skill objectively, and is open to civilians of all ages, nine years old and up—men and women,

By HAROLD T. FRIERMOOD
Secretary
United States Volley Ball Association

If you wish to enter this stay-at-home volley ball contest, use the blank to be found in the new Volley Ball Guide, or secure a blank from H. T. Friermood, Room 807, 347 Madison Avenue, New York 17, New York.

boys and girls—as well as for members of the armed forces. There is no limit to the number of participants from any school, club, organization, or camp. Competition is on a classified basis: Preps: 9-10-11 years; Juniors: 12-13-14 years; Intermediates: 15-16-17 years; Seniors: 18-35; Veterans: 36 and up.

The events to be used are: (1) Serving; (2) Set-up; (3) Passing; (4) Recovery from the net; (5) Vertical jump; (6) Knowledge of the rules.

A definite basis of objectively scoring the events makes it possible to score a perfect 600 points, but it is doubtful if any—even the great and renowned in volley ball circles—will achieve this record.

How to Enter

It is a simple matter to enter.

1. Get others interested from your school, club, playground, college, factory, church, Army, Navy, Marine, or Air Corp unit, Y.M.C.A., Scout troop, Y.W.C.A., boys' club, or other organizations.

Select a responsible adult to serve as your club manager to handle your records, entry fee, correspondence and other matters. (A regular coach, athletic instructor, athletic officer, or official representative is best.)

2. Send your entry blank in not later than February 15, 1944, and indicate how many *individual* score cards you will want. A separate score card is needed for each contestant. (The score cards may be printed or mimeographed by your club if you prefer not to purchase the regulation cards that have been prepared purely as a convenience.) The entry fee (one dollar per club for any number of teams or individuals) must accompany your club entry blank to complete your official entry. Send your entry blank and fee to: Secretary, U. S. Volley Ball Association.

3. You will receive an acknowledgement of your entry and an official 1944 participation certificate.

4. Your local competition may be staged any time during the month of March 1944.

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Merit Awards in the Recreation Program

THE MERIT AWARD plan may be briefly described as a contract-like system of tests or challenges undertaken voluntarily by children. Each test is called a merit when it is successfully completed and each merit requires definite performance. In our plan merits were set up in games, crafts, dramatics, music, participation, and volunteer service. Each one of these categories contained a minimum of ten fundamental merits peculiar to the particular activity. A point value of ten was attached to each merit successfully passed.

The Games Program

In the games program the following merits were listed:

Checkers	Bridge
Chess	Parchesi
Caroms	Pick-Up-Sticks
Dominoes	Table tennis
Anagrams	Jacks
Flinch	Rope jumping
Old Maid	Hopscotch
Hearts	O'Leary
Five Hundred	Knife baseball
Chinese Checkers	Mumblety-Peg

Games may, of course, be added to this list to suit an indoor or an outdoor program. The requirements for successfully passing a game merit were:

1. Identify the parts used in the game.
2. Explain the idea of the game.
3. Know the rules of the game.
4. Play ten different opponents and win six out of ten games.
5. Play in a tournament for that game.

Arts and Crafts

The craft program included the following merits:

Basketry	Cardboard construction
Bead craft	Carving
Block printing	Crayonxing
Bookbinding	Drawing

By **MICHAEL E. WARGO**
Director of Recreation
Clairton, Pennsylvania

For many years recreation executives have been interested in the possibilities which lie in the use of merit awards. There has always, however, been a difference of opinion regarding the value of the system for the playground program.

Mr. Wargo, who has experimented with the plan for three years, feels it has definite values, and he presents them, with details of operation, in this article which won the first place in the 1943 Joseph Lee Memorial Contest for Recreation Literature of the Society of Recreation Workers of America.

The National Recreation Association will be glad to learn of the experiences of other cities with this plan, and to receive comments and suggestions regarding it.

Embroidery	Paper craft
Knitting	Pin making
Reed and raffia	Plaster of Paris modeling
Sand crafts	Poster making
Ship modeling	Tin craft
Woodwork	Leathercraft
Scrapbooks	Rug making
Modeling	Sewing
Needlework	Stone carving
Model aircraft	Weaving
Painting	Waffle weaving

A craft merit was earned when a craft object was completed with a passing rating of 1.5. The one point was given for completing the object and the decimal .5 was used to designate the minimum degree of skill reflected in the completed object. Judgment of skill was based upon the age of the youngster and his ability

at the particular stage of growth. Any rating below 1.5 was not passing.

Drama

In the dramatic category the following skills were set up in the contract:

- Listen to a story.
- Demonstrate fundamental facial expressions.
- Demonstrate fundamental body and facial expressions.
- Demonstrate fundamental feelings through vocal expression.
- Tell a story.
- Do a charade.
- Do a pantomime.
- Participate in a short skit.
- Dramatize a story.
- Act in a one-act play.
- Act in a play.
- Demonstrate any other skill suited to dramatics.

Fundamental expressions were listed as joy, anger, fear, surprise, horror, pleasure, disgust, pain, sorrow, enjoyment, kindness, confidence, anxiety, laughter. A merit was earned by successfully passing any one of the above tests.



Courtesy East Orange, N. J., Board of Recreation Commissioners

Music

The music program presented the following requirements:

- Sing first verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner."
- Sing first verse of "America."
- Hum or whistle a tune.
- Beat out the rhythm of a song.
- Demonstrate leading 2/4 time.
- Demonstrate leading 3/4 time.
- Demonstrate leading 4/4 time.
- Lead a group in singing.
- Participate in group singing.
- Participate with song in a special event.
- Sing in a choral group.
- Make a musical instrument.
- Play a musical instrument.

Others may be added if desired. A merit was earned by successfully passing any one of the requirements.

The Volunteer Program

In the participation contract these were the requirements:

- Participation in parties

St. Valentine's Day	Halloween
St. Patrick's Day	Thanksgiving
May Day	Christmas
- Participation in special events
(as planned by instructors at indoor or outdoor centers)
- Participation in tournament
(as planned by instructors at indoor or outdoor centers)

A merit was earned by participating in any of the above.

Drama, as well as games, music, arts and crafts and other activities, has a part in Clairton's merit award plan

The following merits were listed in the volunteer program:

- Take charge of cloak room.
- Take charge of door desk.
- Take charge of hallway.
- Take charge of toilet facilities.
- Take charge of game supplies.
- Take charge of game room.
- Assist teacher in three different parties.
- Assist in three different tournaments.
- Issue supplies.
- Supervise sandbox.
- Clean up grounds.
- Supervise swings.
- Supervise slide.
- Line off play areas.
- Supervise a game.
- Assist with street showers.
- Assist with registration.
- Assist with special events.
- Assist with tournaments.
- Assist with athletic contests.
- Teach new game, craft, or other activity to a group.

This list can be altered to suit any situation. A merit was earned by attending to the duty designated for a definite length of time. Passing only ten merits was required.

Some Details of the Plan

In our system of merit awards we had two courses open to each child. According to the first,

he might earn as many merits as he chose to earn in any one category of play and score ten points for each merit. Upon the completion of ten merits and the simultaneous earning of one hundred points the child was awarded an Achievement Certificate which denoted his accomplishment. Thus any child could develop a deeper interest in any category of play.

The second course open to the child was that of leadership development through progressive advancement in all six categories of play simultaneously. For this phase we adopted the following degrees of rank in leadership:

(1) Cub

- (a) He must enroll in the leaders corps.
- (b) He must take the play pledge; "I promise to play fair, play square, and play hard. I promise to keep myself physically strong, morally straight, and mentally awake. I promise to respect my teacher, my home, my community, and my country."
- (c) He must demonstrate the correct use of all apparatus.
- (d) He must write an essay on safety on the play area.

(2) Cadet

He must score a total of 30 points in each of the six categories of play.

(3) Junior

He must score an additional 30 points in each of the six categories of play.

(4) Senior

He must score an additional 40 points in the categories of play.

The attainment of each level of leadership rank was rewarded with a leadership certificate awarded at the completion of each rank.

The merit award plan was formulated with four definite objectives in mind: namely, to make the recreation program educational as well as recreational, to develop leadership in youngsters who would be the future citizens of the community, to measure objectively the results of the recreation program, and provide the element of progressive development through participation in the program of activities.

We felt that our future play leaders in the community would have to be drawn from the youth on our play-

grounds today. Our training of them should begin at the present time. By giving them opportunity to learn and do things now we would be reaping the harvest in the future. In addition we felt that every child on the playground today would be the voter of tomorrow. If we could create the proper attitudes toward recreation today, we would not need to fear the future as to citizen support.

We Found It Worked!

The merit award plan of achievement was first tried in 1941 on the summer playgrounds. Some of our staff thought that the plan was too "complicated" and "heavy" for the children. We decided to experiment. Four playgrounds, designated "Negatives," were to operate without the plan and four, designated as "Positives," were to operate with the plan as an addition to their regular program. These were our observations at the end of the year:

- a. "Positive" playgrounds enjoyed a better season in activities than did the "Negatives."
- b. We were able to measure the results of the program on the "Positive" group of grounds. "Negatives" reported in vague terms. For instance, "Positives" reported a total of 1,281 craft objectives *completed*, whereas "Negatives" stated that many objects never reached the completed stage. "Positives" also reported that 311 merits were successfully passed in music. In addition "Positives" reported that 122 achievement certificates were issued in crafts, 38 in dramatics and 19 in music. These reflected concrete results.
- c. Achievement certificates were well received. Many parents had them framed for the children. As one parent put it, "I feel as though my boy accomplished something on the playground this summer."

The leadership development aspect was added to the merit award in the following year. Instructors reported that this appealed to children inasmuch as they became leaders on the grounds and acted as volunteers. In addition the participation and volunteer aspects of the plan were put into greater use. The response to the plan was encouraging. It was evident, however, that the success of the plan depends upon the ability and the personality of the instructors themselves. This last is an im-

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In connection with his presentation of the subject of merit awards, Mr. Wargo points out that the plan may offer one approach to the problem every director of recreation faces in educating the citizens of a community to the values of the recreation program, in developing an appreciation of its importance, and in measuring more objectively its results. The way in which the approach to this fundamental problem is made is necessarily determined by local conditions, but in Clairton the use of the merit awards proved a helpful part of the program of making the public conscious of the significance of public recreation.

Ohio Cities Hold Recreation Referendums

ON ELECTION DAY in November 1943, residents of a number of cities in Ohio went to the polls and there registered their approval, or disapproval, of tax levies in support of local recreation programs.

At Niles, which had had a record of four earlier successful recreation tax levies, the .2 mill tax levy was again voted to cover the period of the next five years. For passage the issue required a favorable vote of 65 per cent of those voting on it. The Niles voters showed their genuine appreciation by giving the levy a 74 per cent favorable vote. Because of war conditions, the usual house-to-house canvass could not be made, but friends of the recreation program worked through their friends, and the various civic organizations, the churches, and the press strongly endorsed the work of the Department. On the same ballot was a .5 mill levy for the work of the Park Department. This received a 71 per cent favorable vote.

A new year-round Department of Recreation had been created earlier in the year at Norwood. This city put its first recreation tax levy before the voters as part of an over-all levy for general school purposes. In Ohio this type of levy requires for passage only a simple majority of the votes cast, and the voters gave their hearty approval of the entire school and recreation levy with a 60 per cent favorable vote. This levy runs for five years and will provide approximately \$12,000 annually for the new recreation program.

Columbus was the scene of the third successful referendum which did not involve the question of a levy. The issue here was whether or not the voters would adopt an amendment to the city charter establishing a recreation commission with power and safeguarding recreation from possible political control. The amendment was adopted by a 70 per cent favorable vote, 65 per cent being required for adoption.

At Massillon, where a limited recreation program has been operated under a recreation board for many years, a .2 mill recreation tax levy was placed before the voters by the Board of Educa-

In the 1943 November elections, three cities in Ohio voted favorably on recreation referendums, and a fourth made such a good showing that the issue was cared for independently of the election outcome. In a fifth city, a recreation tax levy had been successfully voted in August. The net result of the elections in Ohio will be encouraging to cities which may be planning to submit the issue of a tax levy to their citizens.

tion under emergency legislation limiting the period of the levy to two years. The enthusiastic friends of recreation declared the levy passed as more than a simple majority of the voters gave their approval. It was found after election day, however, that due to a technical misunderstanding in the preparation

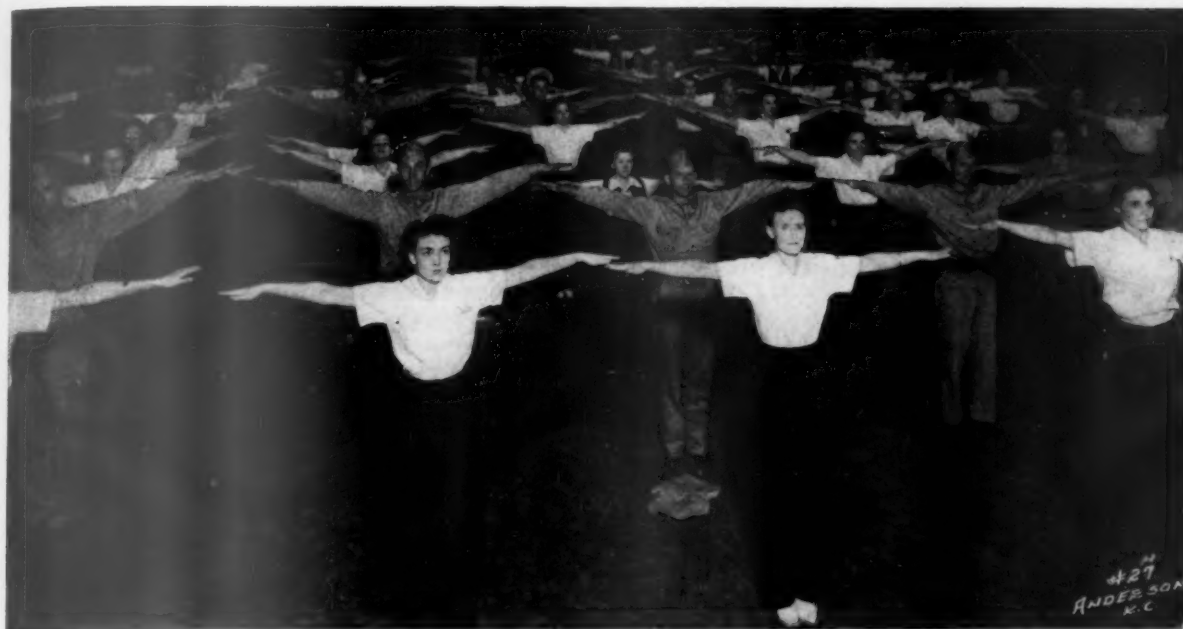
of the levy-sponsoring resolution, a 65 per cent favorable vote was legally required and that the levy had therefore actually failed to pass. The Board of Education, knowing that a majority of the voters had favored the issue, made available a recreation budget of approximately the amount that would have been yielded by the tax levy if passed.

Canton, having failed by a very narrow margin in November 1942 to pass a .2 mill recreation tax levy for a five-year period, placed the issue before the voters again at the primaries in August 1943, as permitted by emergency legislation. This time the period of the levy was limited by law to two years but only a simple majority was required for passage instead of the 65 per cent required in November 1942. Canton citizens gave the recreation program an enthusiastic vote of confidence with a favorable vote of 74.6 per cent.

Ohio cities which voted on recreation tax levies at the November election but failed to secure the required number of votes were Hamilton, Mansfield, and Springfield.

It is hoped that in 1944 the efforts of those cities which failed last fall will be rewarded with completely successful results.

From time to time articles have appeared in RECREATION which give the details of the plan of organization and promotion of referendum campaigns in a number of communities. Among these are the following: "They Voted Yes for Recreation," which is the story of campaigns in Battle Creek, Michigan; Canton, Ohio; and Parkersburg, West Virginia; and "For the Price of a Single Movie!" — the account of the successful referendum in Decatur, Illinois, with the step-by-step methods used in its promotion.



Fun and Fitness for Kansas City Women

KANSAS CITY WOMEN have literally been put back on their feet since the development of their own physical fitness program.

Women of all ages and all types of employment are taking part in this activity which was developed as a part of the city's civilian defense through the cooperation of the Recreation Division of the Welfare Department, the Women's Chamber of Commerce, and business organizations through their personnel departments.

Four hundred and fifty women crowded into the Little Theater of the municipal auditorium for the first meeting of the physical fitness group early in 1942. Later the Arena of the auditorium was taken over for the weekly meetings which were held at 7:30 on Tuesday evenings. More than 1,000 women have been known to attend a single meeting of the group.

Although the Arena was an ideal place for the meetings, it was not always available and the group had to meet in the two gymnasiums of the Westport Junior High School. When spring came many of the meetings were held out of doors under lights. Occasionally special sessions were held with members of army units in the city, and the men and women marched and drilled together.

By HAYES A. RICHARDSON

Director of Welfare
Kansas City, Missouri

The business and professional women of Kansas City take their physical fitness problems seriously, but they manage to have plenty of fun at the same time.

The group took part in the annual Playground Festival and the Labor Day Civilian Defense Parade. After the parade, they

gave a demonstration for the crowd of approximately 50,000 people and made an impressive picture in their distinctive physical fitness uniforms with the Civilian Defense emblem.

Women from practically every large business and industrial unit in Kansas City take part in these physical fitness get-togethers. The two and a half hour meetings are intended to provide recreation and relaxation—not a reducing program. The women go through marching maneuvers, calisthenic drills, and army routines as well as a program of group singing, folk dancing, and games and sports. Members often meet for such extra-curricular fun as roller skating, bicycle riding, and group hiking.

Special attention has been given to the training of leaders—leaders from within the group who help direct the program and can act as leaders in cases of emergency. We all realize that there are many extra duties formerly handled by men that

must be taken care of by the women who remain at home. The business and professional women of Kansas City, and the housewives as well, are

becoming more physically fit in order that they may take over the extra duties and endure the longer hours of work and more strenuous tasks made necessary by wartime demands, and at the same time preserve the zest for living and the buoyancy that are the by-products of good health.

The objective of this program is, therefore, to provide both enjoyment through recreation and, as an end product, physically fit women. It has been emphasized throughout that the program must be carried out with precision—orders are to be given and taken quickly. At no time have activities been haphazard and unorganized, but rather they are planned, coordinated, and carried out with dispatch for the women recognize the seriousness of the need for better physical development.

The objectives of the program might be summarized as follows:

1. To improve the physical fitness of business and professional women whose duties during the day largely curtail much needed physical exercise.
2. To promote sociability and neighborliness within the group in order that they may be able to provide a united front in case of emergency.
3. To promote good health through the medium of various corrective and conditioning exercises.
4. To serve as a morale builder.
5. To cooperate with all other civilian defense units in an integrated program.

The citizens of Kansas City have found this group to be very attractive and it has, in turn, received considerable public attention. The program was organized and conducted by Les Warren, superintendent of public recreation, assisted by Miss Genette Moeller, chief recreation supervisor, and Mrs. Martha Franklin, president of the Women's Chamber of Commerce. A large part of the success of the venture has, of course, been due to the continuous interested work and management of Mrs. Franklin. She persuaded the personnel department and executives of various firms to publicize the program, and many of the executives have since participated in the group.

For example, an executive of one of the large stores of ladies' apparel has become interested and has interested the department store girls in the fitness program. Representatives of the public utilities, factories, chain stores, and concerns employing a large number of clerical workers have

assisted in both the promotion and participation features of the program.

In addition to the white program a Negro program was set up at the Lincoln High School, directed by Mrs. Lena J. O'Neal. It proved to be fairly successful, although it did not continue to run beyond the winter and spring months.

Physical fitness classes are also being organized this year for men in two divisions—first, those who are out of school and will soon be inducted into the armed services and, second, middle-aged men who will have a somewhat modified program.

The women's classes disbanded during the summer months and were reorganized the first of November. Extracts from a radio broadcast describe the reactions of several of the women to this two year old fitness program:

One participant said, "In this war the civilian population is being molested, and to maintain morale and courage all must be physically fit, particularly the women in business." Another young woman from a clothing factory stated that "the opportunity to mix with other women was a fine opportunity for factory women to meet women in business," and she left the feeling that only in a democracy such as we know could this friendliness exist. Much the same idea was expressed by an executive of a large store who stated that such an evening gave those participating what they were seeking—harmony, good will, and a united American womanhood.

Kansas City has been a pioneer in this very vital war activity of helping citizens to develop physically so that they may be able to withstand hardships. At the same time, the fitness program has been so well carried out by Mr. Warren and Miss Moeller that the women enjoyed the activities. Throughout the program has run the idea that to combat the destructiveness in the world today, we must develop our own constructive methods.

"For some time ahead, life for all of us will be a war of nerves. Events will strain us, and burdens grow heavier. To acquire the strength and poise to stand the stress we shall have to do the things that make for physical health and think the things that make for mental health. Part of this wholesome regime, which is open to all, is to know the spring of the turf beneath our feet, and the benediction of the open sky upon our heads."—*W. J. Cameron* talking on "Sports" at a Ford Sunday Evening Hour.

Recreation and Industry

By ROBERT A. TURNER

THE HISTORY of industrial recreation has not been spectacular. Numerous programs, sound in concept, have been conducted quietly over a period of years by different industries. In many of them the athletic type of activities has largely predominated, no doubt because of the leadership and facilities available. On the whole, such programs have been sponsored not for publicity purposes but for the benefit of the employees.

A few facts regarding the development of industrial recreation should be noted:

1. Programs have been inaugurated with the increase of companies and their growth.
2. Administration has usually been the responsibility of a person untrained in recreation.
3. Democratic programming has resulted from cooperation of employee groups. Boards, committees and volunteers usually function in the organization.
4. Tax supported facilities, as well as those provided by each company, have been utilized.
5. Generally such programs have helped to better employer-employee relationships.
6. The majority of such programs have been sponsored financially by the company.

The future of industrial recreation is bright. However, it presents a realistic challenge—a challenge to management, to the employee, and particularly to recreation leadership.

Recreation has come to be recognized as a positive social factor. And, of course, any sound program conceived for its own value has undeniable by-products. As a result, today many realize the importance and relationship of health, safety, morale, social adjustment and education in the daily routine of living together. A management, however, that sponsors recreation as a salve for other gross inequalities is subject to criticism. Similarly, labor union organization attempts to "ride the coattails" of a program for purposes of subterfuge or politics are unethical.

A number of people have asked us why there aren't more articles on industrial recreation in RECREATION. The answer to that is that practically no articles on the subject reach us. And so we are very glad to publish this article by Mr. Turner, who is doing a most interesting piece of work as Coordinator, Department of Community Recreation, West Point Manufacturing Company, Lanett, Alabama. Mr. Turner's manuscript won second place in the Joseph Lee Memorial Contest for Recreation Literature.

Where sincerity of purpose exists, when the enlightened cooperation of management and employee is present, then the recreation administrator has a great opportunity. In other words, when management and the employee say, "Here, we want recreation! What is it and how can we have it?" The answer the professional

recreation worker gives will determine the success or failure of the proposed program. Not only the answer in principle but also in practice. The line of organization, type of administration, scope of program, principles and objectives, leadership standards—these and similar factors are all-important. Naturally, the inauguration of sound programs will influence the future trend of industrial recreation.

There are certain fundamental principles in recreation that are universally recognized. Intelligent application of these principles is the responsibility of trained leadership. How they may be successfully integrated in an industrial recreation program is shown by the following example:

How One Company Tackled the Problem

A manufacturing company with plants in five adjacent communities became interested in launching a recreation program. Management had always been conscious of its responsibility for the general welfare of the workers. As a result of an intensified athletic program over a period of years, the question was asked: "To what extent does this program reach our people?" The answer was not satisfactory, and the company went about the task of finding out what was needed and desired.

Centralized Administration. As a result a trained and experienced worker in the field of recreation was employed to organize and administer a program. This man was told by management, "The job is yours. We don't know anything about recreation but we want a comprehensive and adequate program for our people. We will give you all the cooperation you want and we will expect in return

the best you can produce." Subsequently a recreation department was established as a separate unit directly responsible to top management.

Leadership and Training. Recreation personnel was employed by the department to function in each of the five communities. In most instances selections were made from local residents, except where there were no qualified individuals. Most of the local persons retained had teaching or similar experience and had resided in the communities for a number of years. In-service training was inaugurated and the leader-personnel group was brought together at regular weekly intervals for a discussion course in the theory and practice of recreation.

Community Emphasis. Five community departments were established and organized as separate units. Each local program varied as it reflected the desires and interests of the people in the individual community. The organization of neighborhood units was stressed. Recreation took its place in each village along with schools, churches and other organizations. The close affiliation of the recreation program with existing agencies from the beginning was of mutual benefit.

Occasionally music, dramatics, socials, and sports were organized to bring together participants from the different communities. Administration and supervision were centered in the departmental office.

Leadership. Specialists in music, dramatics, and home economics were retained to develop these fields of interest. Through planning with each local director their services were correlated with the community program.

An efficient recreation leader can multiply the strength of his leadership many times through the encouragement and use of volunteer service. It is estimated that 85 per cent of the activities sponsored in our communities were conducted by volunteers.

Utilizing Available Facilities. Under this type of program, facilities used previously by athletic teams only are now available for community use. A gymnasium formerly accommodating two basketball teams is now shared by happy groups of hundreds of youngsters streaming in and out all day long. Old and young gather here in large numbers to dance. Craft groups meet

regularly. Music and dramatics are often found vying with each other for space.

Baseball fields are used for play days, circuses, pageants, field days or special events. Swimming pools have "Learn to Swim" weeks, water carnivals, and advanced swimming classes. Tennis courts, of necessity, are utilized for badminton, paddle tennis, croquet and goal-hi. Shaded nooks have been converted into tot lots or picnic areas. Deserted fields have become play lots and meeting spots where natural neighborhood groups gather with the recreation leader.

Athletics. Athletics have a proper place in this program. However, the amateur has replaced the professional, and many spectators have come out of the stands as participation became the keynote. At first spectator interest dwindled but now it has been re-established as mother or dad, sister or brother have come to see relatives and friends perform. Fathers are as much interested and concerned with their boys' progress in boxing as is the coach. "These are our boys—our folks," they say. The club basketball team of the former "athletic era" has been replaced by community leagues for boys, girls, men, and women. Boys and men who formerly had to pay admissions to the ball park now vie with each other for positions on the team.

Democratic Programming. Advisory recreation committees, established in each community, share with the local director the problems of planning. Suggestions and criticisms are made on program activities. A new idea is not inaugurated unless it has been previously talked over. The program is not the director's responsibility alone but belongs to the group. Dancing and bridge, which at one time were thought questionable, now, through this procedure, have won the community approval.

Integration. This particular recreation program is not a formalized process. From the start churches, schools and other organizations have been invited to use the facilities of the department. There is no pressure on the department to label its wares. Many times departmental activities and services have been correlated or even absorbed by other agencies. The community type of organization has greatly facilitated this condition and has made possible programs which, under other circumstances, would be lost in a maze of organizational difficulties.

It is a matter of regret that limitations of space do not permit of our publishing Mr. Turner's introduction to his subject in which he discusses the importance of recreation for all and urges its provision as an essential part of the lives of people.

The Program

Thus activity planning for this five-town setup has its origin in two sources: in the employed personnel and in lay groups. It is natural that the resulting program should include a wide range of activities. Social, dramatic, musical, and athletic interests are all included in varying phases. Several unique projects are worthy of mention.

The churches have cooperated in holding regularly scheduled community prayer meetings or vesper services that have more than doubled their ordinary attendance. An Armistice Day parade and program resulted in one of the largest gatherings ever recorded. A music festival, including jug bands, combined church choirs, a dance orchestra, glee clubs, and solo and duet vocalists, packed to capacity one of the largest ball parks. Over 200 men and boys were enrolled in boxing. Bouts staged twice weekly drew an average of 600 spectators while 1,500 attended the annual championships. In the music and dramatic programs thousands of persons have witnessed the performances of hundreds of participants. At several schools physical education groups are conducted by departmental personnel.

Participation is in direct ratio to the variety of activities included. The wider the range of interests, the more people participate.

A comprehensive program of activities for youth has attracted the majority of young people in each community. Parents are grateful for the activities offered their children, realizing that their youngsters are getting something they themselves missed. They also recognize the fact that the physical and mental foundation for future adulthood and citizenship is being laid.

The opportunity for old and young couples to mingle together in a wholesome social environment is of immeasurable value to the community.

Girl leaders have greatly encouraged the participation of women and girls in the program. Clubs with a service motto have been formed. Physical fitness has replaced the outmoded reducing objective. Singing and acting have reawakened old interests. Tap classes are popular. The women are taking part.

A recreation program, like a mirror or barometer, should reflect the environmental conditions affecting the lives of our people. The sound rec-

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"Music and morale go hand in hand"



Courtesy George Peabody College for Teachers

He Works To Prevent Delinquency

CLARENCE JANES, who is chief of police in Sullivan, Illinois, became interested in boys' work long before he accepted his present position. During the depression he helped organize a club for boys the purpose of which was to obtain work for some boys and help equip others with clothes and other personal effects so that they might remain in school. Working with him in this project was Mr. T. J. Burns, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who was very much interested in Boy Scouts.

The first project they started was collecting old papers, rags and junk. They borrowed a truck, collected this material and sold it to a local dealer. The money was used by the boys themselves. Individuals became interested and Mr. Janes used his home as a clearing house to obtain work for the boys. Members of the community cooperated by having their lawns mowed, ashes carried out and other odd jobs by members of the club. In order to teach the boys good workmanship, Mr. Janes inspected each job to see that it was properly completed.

When Mr. Janes became chief of police in Sullivan, he found several local boys committing a number of petty crimes, and began to interest himself in their problem. He has spent considerable time in becoming acquainted with the individual child, the child's home and their relationship to the community. He sends valentines to the boys and girls on Valentine's Day and birthday greetings on their birthday.

A typical example of Mr. Janes' work is found in the story of a fifteen-year-old boy from another community who was discovered sleeping in an old shed. Mr. Janes bought

By **ARTHUR D. BRUNK**
Division for Delinquency Prevention
Illinois Department of Public Welfare

The boy was placed in a Catholic Orphans' Home where he remained for six months. He was released to work on a farm during the summer months. Recently the boy returned to Sullivan to thank the chief of police and the merchants for helping him.



CLARENCE JANES

him some new clothes, and after three days convinced him he should return to the Catholic priest in his home town.

Sullivan's chief of police is a firm believer in a good home, believing that nearly all of the difficulty is with the parents rather than the child, and that the child has been neglected by the home before he becomes the problem of the police. Mr. Janes has been successful in obtaining convictions of parents for neglecting their children and has brought to the attention of the community sources of juvenile delinquency which need to be removed by community action.

There are no slot machines or punch boards in Sullivan. In order to teach the boys and girls safety first, Mr. Janes solicited the coopera-

tion of the theater owner and gave tickets to boys and girls for practicing safety around the square. He never overlooks an opportunity to speak to the children or meet them on their playgrounds. Some difficulty in the past with air rifles has been stopped by the organization of target practice teams under the supervision of the Police Department. The

boys are taught the dangers of air rifles as well as their care. They have a lot of fun shooting with the chief of police.

Recently a boy was reported stealing small articles from the local merchants. Mr. Janes sent word through one of the boy's friends for him to call at the

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Sullivan, Illinois, is an average county seat community with a population of about 3,000. Agriculture and the manufacture of shoes are the chief industries. One of the town's assets is a chief of police who believes that by a careful study of the individual child and the establishment of friendly relations with him much can be done to combat juvenile delinquency.

How Shall We Curb Delinquency?

WE MUST DEAL with boy and girl delinquents individually, but in doing so we must realize that we are not getting at the source of the trouble. Individual treatment of delinquents in Columbus, as in other large cities, has failed to bring about any great reduction in delinquency. Decade after decade there is an endless stream of juvenile delinquents coming into court.

If we would eliminate delinquency, we must make great changes in the social and economic conditions in those neighborhoods where delinquency is the highest. Studies in many different cities have proven conclusively that even when one nationality group moves out of a high delinquency neighborhood and a different nationality group moves in, the delinquency rate remains the same. We know from the facts gathered in scores of cities that the delinquency-producing conditions belong to the neighborhood rather than to the delinquent boy or girl.

We think of delinquent boys and girls as being abnormal and antisocial. Actually they are often well adjusted to the neighborhood or group in terms of what the neighborhood or group expects of them. The neighborhood furnishes them the model and gives the incentive for the delinquency pattern. It gives them recognition and reward. It affords them protection. It furnishes them with the principles of right and wrong in behavior, the socially-approved pattern of character, conduct, prestige, and social relations.

Our high delinquency neighborhoods are disorganized neighborhoods where a group or gang sets up its standards and supplants the conventional standards of the neighborhood, community, and the city as a whole. Hence, it is the group and the neighborhood as a whole with which we must deal if we would eliminate delinquency. Low income is a major factor; low opportunity for enjoyable play and recreation is an enormous factor. Boys and girls become delinquent because they are hungry — hungry for security, for a sense of belonging, for achievement and recognition, for adventure, for affection.

Facilities Must Be Provided

We can take an important step toward satisfying these hungers by the provision of recreation activities made available by organized community

By TAM DEERING

Director of Recreation
Cincinnati, Ohio

At the Columbus, Ohio, Town Meeting of the Air held October 23rd, Mr. Deering urged the residents of that city to increase their recreation areas through neighborhood planning. In another article in this issue attention is called to the fact that in the last election citizens of Columbus voted to adopt an amendment to the city charter establishing a recreation commission with power.

service. For example, the hunger for achievement and recognition can most easily be satisfied through giving opportunity to excel in athletics, dramatics, arts, crafts, dancing, music, nature activities. Boys and girls must excel in something. If they cannot make home runs, we must see to it that they have a chance to be heroes in amateur dramatics. Every child must have play facilities and activities suited to his interests, aptitudes, and skills so that he can excel in something.

The high delinquency neighborhood by itself cannot provide the necessary recreation facilities and leadership. The cost is too great. To make adequate provision in the high delinquency neighborhood, only the city as a whole, working in conjunction with the neighborhood, can provide opportunity for play and recreation for every man and woman and for every boy and girl.

Adequate provision for play and recreation means furnishing the high delinquency neighborhoods in Columbus with open spaces more than double that which it now provides in the low delinquency neighborhoods. There should be one acre in park and recreation grounds for each 100 people according to national standards. In Columbus there is now less than one-half acre of park and recreation space for each 100 people in the city as a whole, and in high delinquency neighborhoods there are almost no recreation areas. Similarly, the provision for school yards is inadequate. Most elementary schools in the high delinquency neighborhoods have less than 1½ acres, barely

enough for the building. The value of the school dollar in Columbus could be doubled in educational returns on the investment if each elementary school had the national standard area of 5 to 10 acres, and if each high school had 20 to 40 acres and if all schools, especially in the high delinquency neighborhoods, were remodeled to make them usable as community centers. And all school grounds should have an abundance of trees and grass turf to play on and space for real gardens for children and parents.

Leadership is Indispensable

But it is even more important to provide in every neighborhood, and especially in the high delinquency neighborhoods, the indispensable leadership

of competent, professionally trained, year-round play leaders. Adequate recreation leaders must be not only technically prepared but they must be capable of leadership. They must know how to organize people even more than they know how to organize activities. They must be able to help the people in the low delinquency neighborhoods to organize and participate not only in play but in the management of recreation activities. The competent recreation leader required for the high delinquency neighborhoods must be able to assist the people in every block to get together and to choose their block leaders. The professionally trained recreation lead-

It's more interesting and absorbing to be a young scientist than a juvenile delinquent!



Courtesy National Elementary Principal, N.E.A.

ers must furnish expert service to the block leaders in mobilizing both adults and young people to help in the development of the program as well as to improve their own leisure-time activities, and to develop lifelong habits of recreation for all. The play leaders must advise and help the parents to provide suitable play and recreation opportunities at their own homes and at their schools and recreation areas for themselves and for their children according to their ages, interests, and aptitudes.

The skilled recreation leader's job is not one that can be done by those already overburdened with the problem of landscape maintenance, nor by the conventional classroom teachers. It is a job to challenge the skill, leadership and ability of the ablest people of a city.

It is a job that will require

adequate financing. Indeed, it is doubtful whether this task can be accomplished satisfactorily without an independent recreation board such as has been created in Cincinnati and in the majority of cities where provision for recreation has been carried furthest.

The development of adequate municipal recreation service is recognized throughout the country as being a task as difficult as that of public education. It cannot be undertaken and carried on as a routine performance. It is difficult to find adequate personnel to take charge of municipal recreation. There is not a sufficient supply of competent directors,

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Are We Solving the Problem?

JOHAN AND TOM had just been released from school at 3 P.M., where they had been compelled to sit quietly from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M., with a one hour lunch period, and a short morning and afternoon recess. They were full of energy and craving fun and excitement. Suddenly, they spotted a large basket filled with glasses for sale outside a hardware store. "Let's have some fun," said John, as he proceeded to steal a glass from the basket and run around the corner. Then he threw the glass high into the air and both boys shouted with joy when the glass crashed to bits in the street.

The boys continued stealing glasses and breaking them until they were finally apprehended for petty larceny. The case came before the Children's Court. The facts were that the boys did steal and break the glasses—but would you consider such boys thieves and really bad boys? The particular school which they attended had no after-school program, and the nearest playground to their homes was nine blocks distant. No, these boys were craving

Children and youth crave excitement. Does our play program provide activities that are constructive but at the same time offer them real "thrills"?

By **JAMES V. MULHOLLAND**
Director of Recreation
Department of Parks
City of New York

excitement and they had to satisfy their desire in some manner, even if it involved them with the police.

There are other cases coming before the courts daily which demonstrate the craving for excitement on the part of the children. Recently, in one of the suburban sections of the city where few playgrounds are located, a

nine-year-old boy injured a little seven-year-old girl living on the same block. "Let's play Indians," he said, and then proceeded to hit the little girl over the head with a hatchet taken from his father's garage. "Was the boy a mental defective? Was he in the ungraded class?" you ask. No, the boy was in a 4A class and an excellent pupil while at school.

The absence of a suitable play program and the desire and craving for excitement are the reasons for the unlawful acts of many children. I might add the case of another child who was arraigned in court on July 4th for setting off fire crackers on the lower West Side of New York City. In this particular case, Bobbie, with three other boys of



his gang, spotted an intoxicated man lying in a doorway. It seemed a good idea to them to set off their fire crackers and throw them near the drunken man. Finally they succeeded in throwing a bunch of fire crackers beneath his coat. He was so intoxicated that he could not help himself. His coat caught fire and he would have been burned to death, had it not been for the timely arrival of the superintendent of the building, who extinguished the fire with a pail of water. Bobbie was arrested and arraigned in Children's Court.

Would you consider Bobbie a delinquent? Was he really bad? His record at school and at home showed that he had done many fine acts and was well thought of by the neighbors. But he craved excitement, and he performed an unlawful act in order to satisfy his desire for a thrill.

Should these children have been examined by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or physician for a reason as to their actions? No, you will find all normal children with this same innate desire for a thrill. They turn in false fire alarms, ring door bells, steal, build fires, play in cellars of abandoned buildings, break windows, assault other children and adults with bean shooters for the same reason. Yes, children will get into trouble and will become delinquents, unless we satisfy this craving for excitement in some wholesome way.

But what is the remedy for this characteristic of children? The answer is an exciting and interesting play program. Play is an instinct possessed by all children, and although educators and philosophers will give many reasons for play—the main reason why children play is because of the fun they get from the activity and it is an outlet for the normal energy of a child. Normal children bubble over with surplus energy and they should use up this energy in wholesome recreation activities.

Teachers and playground directors should use ingenuity in planning their play program. If there is no playground near-by, no after-school activities, no organization to promote a program, parents might organize and arrange a play program for the youth of the neighborhood. Every civic organization should have a recreation committee. This committee might well become acquainted with methods of teaching games and should organize tournaments and contests. These tournaments can be made interesting if attention is given to the organization of teams, evenly matched, and scheduled according to weight and age classifications. A one-sided tournament will not prove successful. But a contest which has been well arranged ac-

cording to factors of age, weight, and skill will always prove interesting. Games for young children should be of short duration and no group game should be continued once the children show the slightest lack of interest. Standard games can often be modified to create interest. The keeping of scores, announcements on bulletin boards, press notices, up-to-date schedules and standing of clubs are also ways and means of holding the attention of children. Special events and parties usually attract a great deal of attention and are exciting to participants and spectators. We must not forget that the competitive spirit is active in all children. They like not only individual competitions of different kinds, but also team and club competitions. Demonstrations of handcraft, dancing, and concerts also help to create interest in any recreation program.

Many children like to "show off," so to speak. If they are skillful in some particular art, or if they can sing or play a musical instrument, they usually want to demonstrate their skill before others. They like to be admired and seek praise. At this point, I might ask, "do you always find fault with children?" or "do you praise them when they deserve praise?" Child psychologists, I think, will agree that children should be praised when they are deserving of praise.

Children like pageants, parades, exhibitions and novel events. In the Park Department we have found that they like magic shows, puppets and marionettes, the making of toy airplanes, clubs, athletics, team games and competitions. Of course the recreation program varies according to the age of participants and the season of the year. At present in New York City a fall sports program with activities such as: volley ball, handball, roller skating and touch football is taking place. This tournament will wind up about December 15th, and on January 1st, 1944, a winter sports program will start. This will include the following activities: ice skating, basketball, handball, musical activities, indoor roller skating, indoor track athletics and boxing.

"We must recognize, side by side with the proper contraction of some city activities, the need of additional expenditures for preventive work in the fields of education, recreation, health, and delinquency to meet wartime problems and avoid serious and otherwise inevitable repercussions in the form of increased delinquency and crime."—*Stanley Isaacs*, member of the City Council, New York.



Drama in Juvenile Delinquency Prevention

By GRACE SHULL EICHMANN
Visalia, California

EVERYONE has experienced the desire to dramatize. It is universal. Browning expressed the idea perfectly in his dramatic poem, *Saul*, in which David says:

"Since my days are ordained to be passed with my flocks,
Let me people, at least with my fancies, the hills and the rocks,
Dream the life I am never to mix with, and image the show
Of mankind as they live in those fashions I never shall know."

History records how David put those dreams into action in his dramatic rise to power in the Hebrew nation.

Today our young people are taking their dramas vicariously, through ready-made movies, which still, in spite of the censors, occasionally mirror varied adult delinquencies.

Even on our farms a multiplicity of electrical conveniences obviates the necessity for genuine initiative and for muscular work vital to mind, body, and spiritual develop-

ment. To be sure, out on the farm calves still must be taught to drink in the old-

time fashion—and that is one performance necessitating struggle, sometimes imagination, too. But how seldom are there colts to nurture, to train, to ride, and drive—a real loss.

If we look with sympathetic insight into juvenile needs and the problem of youth delinquency, we are forced to admit that we have not provided these young people with the opportunities to meet their human needs, to cultivate wholesome imagination and give it play. Youth have been dramatizing the undesirable thoughts we have permitted them to nourish.

Recreation activities are being provided as never before—athletics, handcraft, and others which call for the use of the muscles, the hands, bodily move-

ment. But too little opportunity is given the child to exercise his imagination in spite of the fact that he wants to imitate, to dramatize, before he wants to make things, or to swim and compete in games.

"Postwar Planning Committee" is the inescapable headline in magazine and newspaper today. Mrs. Eichmann urges in this article that we add the headline, "Right-Now Committee to Combat Juvenile Delinquency," and she adds the fervent wish, "May such a committee include a youth drama leader!"

We cherish the hope that parents or adult friends—many of them—may be discovered who will learn through experience the genuine fun and satisfaction that may be theirs if they give time and effort to leading children and youth in dramatic groups. We in Visalia know through experience, and as suggestions to possible somewhat-at-a-loss folk who want to experiment with the plan, here is what we did.

We Began at Home

One just-before-Christmas Day, Margaret, aged ten, came from school and in a rather teary voice asked, "Mama, why can't I ever be in a play? The same ones always are. I think I could do it."

In January, a group of small friends helped string a sheet in the archway between our music room—their stage—and our living room, their audience chamber. Fun began for me as well as the children. I read a poem and they thought up ways of acting it. They organized and met each Thursday after school—outdoors if weather permitted, otherwise indoors. After a brief business session, each in turn set her stage and directed the play for which she had worked out at home the action and characters from a poem she had drawn by lot, *Silver Pennies* and other collections proved adequate. The characters were fairies, hikers, animals, or "just whoever." She costumed them from our cedar chest and closet stowaways.

In March, the "Jane Addams Actors" demonstrated at our South Side PTA. Then another mother started a group that included boys. "Robin Hood" offered a vehicle for a third group, boys only, who made clever paper puppets.

In May, the first group of sixteen girls staged a backyard theater program—four dramatized poems and a play, "Alpine Days," written by Margaret, Ruth, and Beatrice. It was based on *Heide*, read recently by their teacher. The entire program was beautifully done. Our "antique" barn supplied background and dressing room. A large bulb with galvanized tub reflector furnished grand lighting from its position high in a walnut tree. Stage scene properties were supplied by fathers and neighbor boys. Five and ten cent admissions paid expenses and put \$7.57 in a Creative Activity Fund. Other groups staged frontyard and backyard plays delightfully.

In October, group one, now including boys,

We suggest that any of our readers who may wish additional information about the creative arts groups mentioned by Mrs. Eichmann consult her article in the October 1940 issue of *RECREATION* entitled "Still-Hunting."

staged "Children of the Forest," with dialogue and a poem written by the members, at a PTA family night.

It Grew and Grew

The second year began with ninety-two children in six groups and nine adult leaders. All through the year, without tiring, they played Indian, stressing straightness, grace, silence, trailing, knowing wild life, and building fine strong tribes. In their meetings they practiced tribal songs, dances, and ceremonies. They made beads, weapons, and shields.

On a May evening the stage was set for an Indian pageant in the park fronting our Civic Auditorium. Our City Manager had supplied teams, men, and trucks to haul extra greenery. The Riding Academy furnished a scout and a fine horse. A county supervisor rustled two covered wagons and teams. The Power Company arranged lighting. Robbins Music House sent a piano. A small actor had his pony and a travois he had made.

Then the weather man staged an unheard-of-in-May electrical storm and downpour just when it was time to leave our homes for the pageant. What to do? Well, the minute the rain stopped, fathers and older boys transferred properties, except livestock and equipment, into the auditorium, and the play went on with its 717 actors. Inevitable disturbing confusion and noise resulted. But jollity prevailed! Each episode was complete—1490, Calm in Tepee Land. Games and industries.

1760—The Red Man sadly leaves his home, on trail to new hunting grounds.

1820—Shoved back and back, he substitutes the war path for the hunting trail. War paint on, he attacks a pioneer camp, routs the whites. (You can imagine the exuberant war whoops and the boys' delight!)

1932—Appreciation of Indian ceremonials, art, and culture. This episode added interest through a number put on by a real Navajo Indian in costume. The finale was the inspection by the audience and actors of a tribal art exhibit—fortunately arranged at first in the auditorium—by local artists who secured loans of exquisite pieces from private collections in Tulare County.

Visalia is a rodeo town. The following month, the Indians joined in the rodeo historical parade with five flat wagons as stages for the five Indian scenes, or date sequences.

(Continued on page 586)

The Recreation Center as a Musician Sees It

AS THE MACHINE does more of the laborious work done in the past by hand, we shall all have longer periods of leisure. How shall we fill this free time? Some will dissipate—others will develop all their faculties. Communities which realize the value of culture can create recreation centers to which we can all go

for amusement, sport, and for those who wish it, education. These centers can cover a wide field—touching the exploration of new ideas and techniques at one end, and relaxation and recreation at the other. Music can play its part in all of this. These recreation centers will be like large parks, some parts of which will have tall trees and gardens—others flat places for sports—others water for swimming, rowing, sailing. There will be an auditorium for

concerts, drama, opera, cinema—restaurants to suit various tastes and needs—museums and schools for adults, adolescents, and children—kindergarten and play schools for very young children supervised by nurses, educators, and psychologists who have a sympathetic understanding of children's needs. There might be a high tower from which at night colored light will be

"Every community," says Leopold Stokowski, "should have a recreation center—partly open-air—and a civic auditorium. If possible, these should be in the same place."

What Mr. Stokowski has to say about these buildings is so interesting that we secured permission from the publishers, Simon and Schuster, New York, to reprint his statement from the recently published book, *Music for All of Us*.

projected—which in time will create new phases of an art of color in motion and form. From this tower music can be sent out in any direction desired, and at those times of the day which suit the majority—gay, popular music for dancing—stirring marches—music from operas and operettas—and the finest symphony

concerts.

Each recreation center should be under the guidance of a single person responsible to the community for the quality of each part of the activities—each of the separate parts being in turn the responsibility of an expert—no committees, but direct individual responsibility. As we all vary in our tastes, these recreation centers should have parts for noisy, impulsive play and other parts for

amusement or for study. These centers should not be profit-making, but each type of amusement should be as inexpensive as possible. These centers should serve the community, with only one aim in mind—to supply us all with the various kinds of amusement and recreation of mind and body we need and which would give us all our share of the joy and poetry of life.



Courtesy Reading, Pa., Recreation Department

Civic Auditorium

The auditorium will be planned by architects, engineers, and musicians together so as to produce the finest possible acoustical conditions. In the civic auditorium on the grounds of the recreational center, concerts of symphonic music will be given—also recitals by pianists, violinists, singers, and chamber-music organizations of the highest order. When desired, this music can be at the same time sent out from the tower. This tower can be so high, and the loudness of the music so adjusted, that thousands can hear it in the gardens. The music will be clear and full but not obtrusive—if desired it can be directed to certain parts of the gardens but be practically inaudible in others.

The auditorium in each community should be beautiful inside and out—its form outside should be an expression of its function inside. It should be comfortable—so that in listening to music we can forget all physical considerations and lose ourselves in the music. The entire stage should be visible from every seat. A speaking voice on the stage should easily be heard from every part of the house.

Music should sound full and warm and rich. This can be achieved by using an acoustical reflector on the stage and by making many of the surfaces of the walls and ceiling reflect and so increase the volume of tone of the music to the desired degree. The soft parts of the music will have mystery, distance, and yet clarity. At the end of the hall farthest from the stage, the angles and textures of the surfaces can be such that there will be no echoes or overlong reverberation. Noise from outside will be absorbed. Acoustical engineers know how to do all of this. Unless the auditorium is very large, electrical amplification will not be necessary.

The coloring inside should be warm and friendly—the lighting full and soft, without glare.

The corridors should be so lit, day and night, that they can be used for exhibitions of paintings and sculpture of the artists of the community—the nation—the whole world.

The stage opening should be flexible—both sides and top—so that it can be any size desired. This can be done by a sliding wall on each side of the stage, and by a light but solid partition from above which can be raised or lowered. By this means the stage open-

ing can have any proportion—any form that is suitable. These changes can be controlled electrically so that they can be made silently with ease and swiftness during the performance. In other words, the size and form of the stage opening will be under control, just as is the opening of a camera lens by the diaphragm. For drama and opera the stage opening can be high and narrow for some scenes and wide and low for others, according to the nature of the stage setting and the scene. For symphony concerts the stage opening can be exactly the size of the acoustical reflector. For a speaker—singer—a violin, piano, or cello recital—or a quartet concert—the stage opening can be quite small and intimate, with a small acoustical reflector back of the performers.

The hall should have no balcony, because that affects the sound underneath. It should be fan-shaped—narrower at the stage, very broad at the other end. The maximum number of seats should be in relation to the needs of the community. By an arrangement of flexible back walls this seating can be reduced to any number desired, according to whether the performance is on a large scale or intimate.

On account of the great number of seats, admission can be within the reach of all.

The acoustical and lighting condition of the hall should be in accordance with all the latest technical knowledge on these subjects.

Back of the stage there should be plenty of space for scenery and properties, and plenty of small but good dressing rooms with outside ventilation.

The whole should be air-conditioned, with controlled temperature and humidity. The degree of humidity in an enclosed space influences the acoustics.

When communities and nations realize the importance of recreation, sport, general culture, and music—there will begin a great era of the evolution of man, with equal opportunity for well-being for everyone. Greed, exploitation, and ruthless competition will always have their inevitable results. Equally certain is that cooperation, simplicity, generosity, and understanding of the importance of culture will lead to everything that we know in our hearts to be just, true, and beautiful.

Music for All of Us is reviewed on page 587 of this issue.

"When communities and nations realize the importance of recreation, sport, general culture, and music—there will begin a great era of the evolution of man, with equal opportunity for well-being for everyone."

Planning and People

TODAY we are living in an atmosphere of planning — planning all over the world, military planning, occupation planning for liberated areas, international planning for living together as nations after the war, business and industrial planning, community planning for a better place in which to work

and live. Where two years ago the word was used with apology now everyone speaks of planning boldly and with conviction.

Local democracy is confronted with the biggest opportunity since this country began. Public works will be just one phase of this opportunity. The emergency of the war is dynamo. But the energy produced can set in motion a great deal more than merely a shelf of public works. It can become that gigantic force—a people's program, a people's program for democratic area development—a development that will carry far beyond the postwar period into a future clear from the smoke and rubble of war. We call it postwar planning. The end of war merely dates the beginning of its execution.

All of us know that the fire of democracy is kept alive on the hearth of local government. In our cities and towns we live and work; it is there that we shape the destiny of this nation. It is in our local communities that we educate our children, provide for health and sanitation, build our homes, worship in our churches, and develop our culture. It is there that we must plan our way of life following this war.

So What Are We Doing About It?

We can provide properly located playgrounds and breathing spaces, adequate sanitation, schools, and clinics. At the same time that we make our cities structurally sound we shall be preventing and curing human erosion. Here is a program both socially and financially sound.

To accomplish this program we must obtain the enactment by our state legislatures of proper urban redevelopment laws. We must select our first area for neighborhood redevelopment. Both will require research and thought and planning. And where can you find a better place to invite the co-

The extracts given here from the address by Mayor Wilson W. Wyatt of Louisville, Kentucky, before the annual meeting of the International City Managers' Association held last September, are significant as showing the increasing trend toward giving the people themselves a share in the planning of their cities. The extracts are presented through the courtesy of the *National Municipal Review*.

operation of your local architects, lawyers, builders, engineers, businessmen, and just plain citizens? Furnish the full assistance of your planning commissions, yes, and of your works department, and your school board. But let it become a citizens' enterprise as well. The people are vitally interested in becoming a part

of their city's future. Democracy makes the mistake not of asking too much participation by its members, but too little.

We are always talking about government by the people as well as for the people. Well, then, let's make our community planning by the people. In the early days of modern city planning it became the custom to employ a city planner to develop a master plan. After he had completed his Utopia it was presented to the people. Everyone gasped and said, "How wonderful," or "How idiotic," according to his fancy, and by the time the first public clamor had died away the dust had begun to gather on the master city plan.

I venture the prediction that where properly selected citizen committees, in cooperation with local officials, prepare a community's postwar plans—or area development, as I should prefer to call them—a large part of the final projects will become realities, for they will represent the ambition of the people for their city. There is a tremendous pool of ideas, technical skill, and energy for practical accomplishment.

This means a working citizens committee, not just a group of names. At the very least they can work on community planning in their free time. Many, even the busiest, will take time out from their business days. Most alert citizens, while perhaps unwilling to give up their business and hold public office, are glad for the opportunity to help as an avocation.

Everyone likes to tell the mayor or the city manager what should be done. Direct this energy into a constructive channel. Almost everyone likes to plan a house. How much more exciting to plan a city. To him, it's a war job. It's a chance for concrete postwar planning for the citizens' own good.

The Chance of a Lifetime

Here would be the chance of a lifetime for wide-awake, civic-minded, capable citizens to bring their experience and judgment to bear on the specific problems which face their city and affect—yes, vitally affect—their own business and their pocket-books. Higher property values mean better business for the real estate man. Construction means prosperity for architects, engineers, builders, and labor. Cultural opportunities interest not just the students and artists but every citizen as well as the people in the surrounding area. And a progressive city sets the pace for prosperity in all business.

Most city plans have borne but little fruit for lack of public funds or at least for lack of public interest and support. But if it is the people's plan it will have the public backing, receive the public funds, and it will be assured of action.

As an example of a city planning project in which citizens are participating, we are reprinting the following extracts from an article in the November 1943 issue of the *American City* entitled, "Newspaper Poll Shows Public Preference as to Miami Post-War Projects," by Frank F. Stearns, Executive Secretary, City Planning Board, Miami, Florida.

The City Planning Board of Miami, at the suggestion and with the help of Mayor Leonard K. Thomson, enlisted the services of Miami's two newspapers, the *Miami Herald* and the *Daily News*, in conducting a newspaper poll to determine the public's preferential rating of postwar projects. The Sunday, July 25, 1943, editions were used. The first page of a section of each paper prominently displayed illustrations of drawings and pertinent reading matter and a form of ballot listing fifteen projects in alphabetical order. These were the principal projects being considered. Repairs and replacements of streets and sidewalks were omitted because this is usual routine of city maintenance.

The public was invited to use the ballot form by numbering the projects in relative order of preference, clipping out and mailing to the planning office for tabulation.

Both newspapers gave continuing publicity through news items and editorials. One *News* editorial read in part as follows:

"To offer these suggestions should be regarded by every citizen as a privilege well worth exercising, a privilege vouchsafed only by the democracy

for which its sons and brothers are fighting so hard."

Projects in Order of Public Preference

Considerable interest was displayed and a number of ballots were received. The results at the end of two weeks were as follows:

- Sewage disposal and sewer extensions
- New railroad terminal and related improvements
- Slum clearance and redevelopment
- Hospital improvements and additions
- Waterworks supply source and extensions
- Bridges and tunnels
- Virginia Key Bay Airport
- Incinerator improvements
- Parks and playgrounds
- Pan American Center
- Library
- Fire and Police
- City Administration Building
- Auditorium
- Orange Bowl Stadium enlargement
- Sidewalks
- Street widening
- Weed cutting
- Bus terminal
- Harbor
- Transportation
- Garbage collection
- Planning and zoning
- Air transportation
- River widening
- Aquarium
- Free port of entry
- Housing program
- Waterfront beautification
- Mosquito control
- Ice skating rink
- Flagler Street beautification
- Tropical Disease Research Center
- Simon Bolivar monument to honor our South American neighbors

In addition to the ballots, a number of letters were received with some very excellent suggestions and ideas. The order of public preference of listed projects and additional ideas and criticisms is being carefully weighed as a guide in the development of projects and their relation to the best planning of Miami.

Since the votes were counted, additional ballots and letters have been received—some from far places.

The Mayor Predicts

The Mayor, in his original suggestion, pointed out that many of the citizens in Miami believe the population of Miami will increase within eight or

(Continued on page 580)

The Show Goes On

IT WAS ONE of the strangest sounds

I have heard since the beginning of the war—the sigh of the wind, wailing and moaning through the great web of camouflage that stretched between us and the moonlit sky.

The station was very “hush-hush,” and the camouflage was necessary enough, for there was not much shelter on this desolate plain.

All the same, to live day and night, month after month, listening to the sound of that insane hissing and whimpering and whining would be calculated to get on a man’s nerves.

“Doesn’t it ever send you nuts?”

The corporal by my side grinned. An odd looking grin, for his face was checkered by the shadows cast from the whistling web above.

“You get used to it,” he said. “Especially when we’ve got something to look forward to, like tonight.”

Which reminds me that this was meant to be a

By BEVERLY NICHOLS

story about some good companions.

The phrase is inescapable when you are writing about the gallant little parties of stage folk who go out to the remotest parts of the country—indeed, to the ends of the earth, from Iceland to the West Coast of Africa—bringing laughter and music to millions of men in this war, so much of which is waiting.

It was because I knew something of the fine work that Ensa (Entertainment of National Services Association) was doing that I had come to this outlandish spot that night. Let us stand together in the mud and the rain, watching for their arrival.

They are late, for they have to come many miles through a maze of lonely roads and narrow lanes. But just as we are getting anxious, there is a hoot, the sentry runs to the gate, and a small covered car splashes towards us and stops.

Out of this car—which

The ENSA (Entertainment of National Services) presents its show often within sound of the guns and in constant danger of being bombed



Courtesy British Information Services

you would say might hold, at a pinch, three people and a couple of suitcases—clamber four men and a girl. We can hardly see the girl, for she skips off through the mud to do a quick change.

But the men remain behind to get out the "props." It is evidently a magic car, for the props are voluminous, and include a huge drum and a miniature piano.

Back to the hut. There are about thirty men in the audience, one officer, one cat, and two land-girls who have walked three miles over ploughed fields for the treat.

I annex the cat, say a few words to the land-girls, and, hey-presto, before we know where we are, four artists in immaculate dinner jackets have emerged through the curtains, which are really a couple of Army blankets.

The hut is filled with a gale of music, from piano, and accordion and violin and drum—and the war and the camp and the khaki and the camouflage seem a very long way off.

The music stops. Whistles, stamps, hurrahs. The "curtains" part, and the girl appears.

Ten minutes ago she was a feminine bundle of scarves and mackintoshes, hopping through puddles. Now she is in a frock of white lace that looks as though it had just come out of a handbox.

Her hair is exquisitely waved and ordered. Her make-up is exactly adapted to the glaring light. She is singing—and singing beautifully—*Ave Maria*.

That seems to me, to put it mildly, an achievement. I will not describe the admirable concert which ensued, though it is interesting to note that the greatest applause seemed reserved for the classical numbers.

As you weren't there to clap in person, I should like you to join me in a discreet clap on paper.

The spirit that animated this little party was typical of the spirit which animates all Ensa. And I think it deserves a hand.

The show must go on. In spite of wind, weather, mud, the blackout and the Luftwaffe.

There is no stage on which to act? A little detail like that need not deter us. There are plenty of mess-tables hanging about; they may not all be quite the same height, and some of their legs may be rather "wonky"; but they will serve.

Many a gallant little lady has danced out on such crazy platforms with a smile as bright and as unconcerned as if she were waltzing on the boards of Drury Lane.

There are no lights? Who cares? A couple of hurricane lamps, a candle in a bottle, an electric torch or two, and with some assistance from your imagination we will persuade you that you are the spectator of dawns and sunsets and brilliant ball-rooms.

We must play in a tent, in which there are only a few feet where we can stand upright? True, that *does* call for a moment's consideration, particularly as it means that all the most touching love scenes will have to be played round a tent pole. Also, since the tent is on sharply sloping ground, most of the exits will have to be made by climbing up a bank. However, a little rehearsal, a little improvisation, and we manage. The show goes on.

The word "improvisation" covers a multitude of miniature dramas and comedies.

Consider, for instance, the case of the Sisters X. They were a serious musical act, which they performed with the assistance of a piano.

A piano will stand plenty of rough treatment, but there are limits to its endurance, and when the Sisters X began to sing one night in a remote Scottish camp, half the notes just weren't there.

What did they do? They turned the act, there and then, into broad comedy, and it was a howling success.

It was the same with a party who found themselves suddenly playing in a railway station. When a train hooted they brought the hoot into the dialogue. And when some of the men can't get to the concert, the concert goes to them. They sing to cooks while they are working, they clamber into antiaircraft pits during a blitz and play the accordion between the barrages.

"The show must go on," is one of the grandest phrases that ever came from the lips of man. It is being bravely upheld.

Reprinted, by permission, from the February 1943 issue of *Britain*.

"The suffering and hardship shared together have given us a new understanding of each other's problems. The lessons learned during the forty tremendous months behind us have taught us how to work together for victory, and we must see to it that we keep together after the war to build a worthier future. Victory will bring us even greater world responsibilities, and we must not be found unequal to a task in the discharge of which we shall draw on the storehouse of our experience and tradition."—*King George VI* in a broadcast to America, Christmas Day, 1942.

The Stars and Stripes Revue

When the talented troupers of Elizabeth, New Jersey, go into rehearsal, they are usually getting ready for an army show. These amateurs have learned how to compete successfully with professionals on the hard-plugging G.I. circuit.



Photo by Richard Mitchell

A veteran at eight . . .

WHEN THE CURTAIN goes up on the Stars and Stripes Revue of Elizabeth, New Jersey, there is a troupe of talented teens behind the footlights and usually an army of servicemen out in front. These young amateurs have successfully competed with professionals in touring the army camps of the state, and they can claim sold-out houses at Fort Dix, Fort Monmouth, Camp Kilmer, Camp Edison, Fort Hancock, Raritan Arsenal, Eatontown Reservation, Tilton Hospital in Fort Dix, the New York Training Center at Verona, and the Elizabeth Armory.

It all began five years ago when Anthony Orlando organized the Senior Dramatic Club at the South Broad Street Community Center which is sponsored by Elizabeth's Recreation Commission. The Club grew rapidly in peacetime, then catapulted to popularity when the needs of servicemen in near-by camps sent them out on the G.I. circuit. Now the boys and girls have a "big time" show on their hands.

Their current musical comedy revue is a happy mixture of songs, dances, comedy numbers, and orchestra selections. Every Thursday evening and Friday afternoon the cast get together with Mr. Orlando and Miss Molly Levine, their dramatic coach and pianist, to rehearse their numbers and run through the show. The Club is now housed at the Midtown Community Center. It's a full time job for these youngsters to keep their Stars and Stripes Revue "on the road."

The program of this all-star entertainment includes orchestra and instrumental numbers, comedy skits, dancing, and singing. The orchestra, known as "Paula and Her Trio," is made up of an electric Spanish guitarist, an electric Hawaiian guitarist, an accordion player, and a young master of the bass fiddle. A special instrumental number is handled by a fifteen year old trap drummer who plays a novelty solo.

The dances range from swing, tap, and acrobatic, through Spanish, Mexican, and Hawaiian, to currently popular military numbers. And the songs on the program are equally varied: solos, duets, trios; harmony, swing, blues, spirituals, ballads, folk and cowboy songs, popular and semiclassical numbers. Jacki Cantara, an eight year old soloist with the touch of a veteran trouper, is one of the show's hit performers.

The Club also boasts a composer among its membership with Coach Molly Levine composing several of the songs for their revues.

The Army and Navy have taken their toll of the cast, but several servicemen still take part in the shows when they are home on leave. Occasionally they are in Elizabeth long enough to go with the show as guest masters of ceremonies or guest stars. Classical singing star Louise Natale is a guest on the program whenever she is not otherwise engaged.

Anyone is eligible for a tryout in the show. The

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It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

Cap'n Bill's Column of Nature-Grams

AIRPLANES. "Building Model War Planes," by Emanuel Stieri, Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, New York, 90 pp. 60 construction patterns. \$1.50. Detailed plans, photographs and materials for models needed by the United States for identification instruction.

"Baden-Powell," by E. E. Reynolds. Oxford University Press, New York. 283 pp. \$2.75. The story of scouting.

Bees. "A Hobby that Pays," a 16 pp. bulletin. G. B. Lewis Company, Watertown, Wisconsin. "This little booklet written by Kenneth Hawkins explains what you will want to know about bees." Free upon request.

Camping. "Adventuring Together," by Louise Adler. A demonstration in coed cooperative camping for adolescents. 43 pp. Juvenile House of Juvenile Service League, 974 E. 156th Street, New York.

Conservation. "Our World and How to Use It," by Edna Fay Campbell. An adaptation of "This Useful World," by Paul B. Sears, James I. Quillen, and Paul R. Hanna. Scott Foresman and Company, Chicago. 1942. 287 pp. Might be called social geography. Fourteen year olds enjoy it.

"Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America," by F. H. Kortwright. Published by the American Wildlife Institute, Washington, D. C. 476 pp. \$4.50.

"Edible Wild Plants of Eastern North America," by Merritt L. Fernald and Alfred C. Kinsey. Gray Herbarium, Harvard University, Garden Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts. 422 pp. \$3.00. A carefully prepared book with recipes. Will be the authoritative book for many years and should stand alongside of Gray's Manual.

Farmer Aides, High School. The Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C., has published a 14 pp. pamphlet, "Guides to Successful Employment of Non-Farm Youth in War Time Agriculture."

Farmers. "The Flag Is Over the Plow," by Barton Rees Pogue.

"Do you feel, young man, the only way
To serve the land you love
Is to shoulder a gun and march away
With the stars and stripes above?"

More than troops and ships and camps are marked
With the cloth of our sacred vow,
You may not see it wave as you work,
But the flag is over the plow."

Farms. "Farm Aides." Womans Press, New York. 46 pp. pamphlet. 25 cents.

Fertilizers. The following pamphlets may be secured from the National Fertilizer Association, Inc. Executive office, 616 Investment Building, Washington, D. C.: No. 117, Fertilizers and Good Farming; No. 118, Green Acres; No. 129, Mineral Hunger in Livestock; No. 130, Improving Grass in Lawns, Parks, Fairways and Athletic Fields; No. 131, Putting Plantfood to Work; No. 132, Using Superphosphate with Manure; No. 133, Fertilizing Soybeans; No. 134, More Milk and Meat from More Grass; No. 135, The Home Garden; No. 136, Organic Matter—the Life of the Soil.

Food. "Fightin' Food." Pillsbury Flour Mills Company, Foods Education Department, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota. Free 14 pp. booklet, a practical, up-to-the-minute wartime guide.

4-H Club Program. Recreation is becoming more popular, camps and educational trips, conservation of wild life, dramatization of war tasks, and popular slogans such as "Feed a Fighter in 1944" are earmarks of the changing program.

Gardening, Hunger for. When *The London Daily Mail* naval reporter was at sea recently in a destroyer, he was asked by a sailor whether he would like to see his garden. "I followed him doubtfully down to his mess deck," he writes, "but the garden was there. It was an old tobacco tin, and pea plants were growing in it. The sailor had got the earth by scraping potatoes issued to the mess. The seeds came from dried peas which the cook let him have. 'They're hardly prize-winners,' said this Atlantic gardener, 'but they're the only plants for miles around here.'"—Reprinted from *The New York Times*.

Hiking. "Hiking as a Physical Fitness Activity." Chicago Office of Civilian Defense, 23 North Wacker Drive, Chicago. 42 pp. pamphlet.

Horticultural Society, Massachusetts. Organized in 1829 in Boston. Baldwin apples, Bartlett

(Continued on page 576)

You Asked for It!

QUESTION: I have recently accepted the chairmanship of the Education and Leisure Time Division of the Council of Social Agencies. The job of

this committee is not at all clearly defined and perhaps rightly so. More than this, it could stand redefinition in the light of present trends, war influences and the much talked of delinquency causes. I am writing you in the hope that you may be willing to "take down your hair" and chat with me as to what is your thinking and what we can do on a decidedly city-wide or area-wide basis.

Answer: Community forces are so numerous and complicated that a successful approach to any major problem requires a strong and inclusive attack. Organized labor, nationality groups, minority groups, new and strong groups interested in governmental efficiency, as well as the agencies that we identify as social work agencies should be well represented in local efforts aiming at reorganization of municipal services or accomplishing any drastic change. For this reason I have always thought that a division such as yours should be as widely representative as possible, and that the interpretation of what was recreation or leisure should include schools, libraries, and other such organizations as well as the familiar youth agencies and the municipal recreation bureau. I know that labor is strong and has a big interest in social and recreational activities. The same is true of industrial management.

Service rather than coordination should be the slogan of the Division. I think it is true that when any group gives appreciated service it establishes its community leadership and it gradually and naturally exercises a coordinating function. In one or two communities with which I am familiar, councils have had such an exaggerated conception of their role as planning and coordinating agencies that their efforts have been interpreted as an attempt to dictate, and their usefulness has been greatly impaired.

The next general point is that even though the Division may in its own personnel be widely representative, there are projects in which it will find it necessary to unite its strength with other public

One of you asked such an important question that we have temporarily revived this column. If you want it to continue, ask us another!

and private agencies in order to get a job done, and not feel it necessary to attempt a project solely under its own auspices.

Next, I believe that more attention should be given to community improvement in terms of neighborhoods. Existing neighborhood organizations of a representative type or new ones that will be created should be utilized to educate parents in recreational standards, in concerted attacks on delinquency, and as a means of civic training for children and young people. Not many cities that I know have by any means put the possibilities of neighborhood action to a full test.

So much for general suggestions. When it comes to the programs of divisions such as yours they seem to fit into three types—discussions, studies, and direct action. Some of the things I am listing here come out of current experience; others are several years old.

Discussions

Conferences with teen age young people on social and recreational programs they would like for themselves

Hearings staged for young people on the same subject

Discussions on the wider use of school buildings

The promotion of family and home recreation

Camping and day camping

Recreation for minorities

Forums and conferences

Studies

Studies undertaken by recreation and leisure time divisions:

An analysis of individual agencies in relation to the needs in their neighborhoods

A study of camp supplies

What becomes of the high school graduate? In wartime the answer to this is simpler than in peacetime, but I know that prior to the lowering of the draft age to 18, of the many thousands of high school boys and girls who took part regularly in the program of the physical education department only a small fraction displayed any interest

in the use of school gymnasiums after graduation.

Studies of delinquency

Special needs of war workers

Community-wide surveys

Studies of the recreational interests and recreational habits of people

Inquiries into the practices of public and private leisure agencies in encouraging self-management, self-government, group leadership and the assumption of responsibility among boys and girls

Collaboration with municipal planning boards in local planning studies

Direct Action

Direct action among Councils has included the following:

Influencing housing administrators to incorporate in their developments playlots, playgrounds and recreation buildings which meet modern standards. (See *Standards for Neighborhood Recreation Areas and Facilities* published by National Recreation Association.)

Promoting the development of an adequate recreational and civic program in connection with new housing projects

Helping to bring about the establishment of teen age youth centers

Counseling and helping to train teen age young people in their own management and operation or in committee work related to the operation of youth centers

Fostering the creation of neighborhood coordinating councils where there exists no competent neighborhood group for cooperative promotion of civic and social improvement

By all means of interpretation, keeping alive during wartime public appreciation of the philosophy of balanced living

Publishing and widely distributing attractive directories of local recreational facilities and services, both public and private

Registering, recruiting and training volunteers

Sponsoring or conducting institutes for the training of both paid and volunteer workers

Promoting day camping

Cooperating in the use of facilities

Correlating school training and activities promoted by public and private recreational organizations

Arranging between museums and recreational agencies for the use of lectures from the museums before recreational groups on the one hand, and

systematic arrangement of visits to museums by groups from recreational agencies

Promoting recreational service in institutions

Back Municipal Program

All the Division's constituent agencies have a special stake in the success of the municipal recreation program. The Council has in past years given a great deal of attention to the effort to improve the municipal recreation program in the city. Some of the practical activities in this direction would include the following:

Securing the appointment by the Mayor of a truly representative advisory committee on recreation with a free hand to reveal the facts as to needs and to press for improvements. Such a committee should be principally lay people of great influence and force and the composition of the committee should include representatives from nationality groups, labor, minority groups, and the other usual civic, business and industrial forces.

I am convinced that it is necessary to carry a vigorous educational program on municipal recreation standards to neighborhood groups in the city. I include all kinds of neighborhood groups regardless of their education or cultural background. I do not believe there will be any great improvement in the standards of the municipal program until a great many ordinary parents and citizens have a clear grasp of a few of the elementary standards as to training and qualifications of community center and playground directors, of neighborhood programs, and salaries. Here I see a great opportunity for the Division to develop a systematic educational program. This knowledge and conviction will carry from the neighborhoods to councilmen and city officials. For many years attempts at improvement have proceeded from centralized social and civic committees directed at city hall. What is needed is a movement from the grass roots.

With the public schools greatly reducing their budget there seems no immediate prospect of schools sponsoring a lighted school house program. I have noted there is some spontaneous demands for opening of schools in one or two neighborhoods, and I know that representatives of industry have wanted to have the use of school gymnasiums for indoor sports.

There are several cities which have successful arrangements by which industries, clubs, or other

(Continued on page 581)

WORLD AT PLAY



Courtesy Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.

Sailors Supplied with Reading Material

NAVY men at the U.S. Naval Training Station in San Diego, California, are well

provided for in the reading material department. There are 28,000 volumes in the seven libraries which are managed by eight Civil Service librarians and a number of women welfare employees. A constant survey is made concerning the reading habits of the men and the Station tries to supply them with technical books for advancement in rating, books for recreational reading, papers from the home town, and magazines.

"Storyland Theater"

THE BLUE Network has begun a weekly "Storyland Theater"

program series specially written and arranged for children of primary or preschool age. The programs, which are broadcast each Saturday evening from 5:45 to 6:00 P. M., Eastern War Time, combine an entertaining story adapted from the folk tale of some foreign land with original music. Stories dramatized on "Storyland Theater" range from "The Little Rabbit Who Wanted Red Wings," based on an Indian folk tale, to "The Little Boy Who Slept," taken from a Chinese fable.

International Youth Center

THE INTERNATIONAL Youth Center, opened in London last summer, is open to young men and women from 18 to 30 years of age of the United Nations. Although the Center, which was made possible through an International Youth Trust, is primarily cultural and instructive, it will also be recreational. Thus, in addition to an international library of books and gramophone records, and a program of lectures, debates, and discussion groups, there are music and drama clubs and Saturday evening dances.

Postwar Recreation Center

PLANS for a postwar municipal recreation center are already underway in Wilmington, Delaware. The city has paid the federal government \$25,000 for an 18-acre tract of land, located near the center of Wilmington. While plans are being drawn up for the project, the federal government is using the site at present and has leased it until the war ends.

Niagara Falls "Gray-Y" Club for Recreation

FOUR community agencies in Niagara Falls, New York, united to organize a "Gray-Y"

Club in a section of the city where recreation for boys was badly needed. Active in the movement were the Y.M.C.A. and the Lions Club who engaged a club leader and operated the club two nights a week, the boys meeting one night in the social room of a church, the other night in the high school gymnasium. In between meetings the boys had the privilege of using the Y.M.C.A. for swimming and special meetings. The principal of the school in the district cooperated enthusiastically and served as chairman of a guiding committee of men in the neighborhood.

New Game Boards for Submarine Crews

IN RESPONSE to a former staff member's plea for compact games equipment for his submarine crews, Z. T. Egardner of the Chicago Park District staff developed a new six-games game board which includes four-handed checkers, fox



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citizens, has received a gift of fifteen acres of property, checkers, chess, and mill, on the other. Former staff members and recreation executives in the armed forces may obtain copies of the game board by writing to the Office of the Director of Recreation, Chicago.

"Teen Age Monroe" — Monroe, Louisiana, has an organization sponsored by the Recreation Board known as the T.A.M. ("Teen Age Monroe"). Any high school girl in Monroe of teen age may join the group which has been organized to further war activities and at the same time provide recreational diversions. Specifically the group purchases War Stamps and Bonds and encourages others to do the same. It takes charge of children's parties and picnics, and participates in playground efforts. Members are expected to join first aid and Red Cross lifesaving classes and to act as volunteers in any war effort that may be carried on. The city has been divided into eight districts with a T.A.M. leader for each area and an area commander.

A Camp for Colored Citizens—Dixwell Community House, New Haven's center for colored

and geese, and solitaire, on one side; two-handed erty near Leete Island. Dr. William J. Holly, a retired druggist, is donor of the property which will be used as a camp for children and young people. Various groups of volunteers have done the work of clearing the land, Company G of the Connecticut State Guard having been the first to undertake the task.

For eighteen years Dixwell Community House has served the colored population of New Haven with a program designed "to promote wholesome living, community welfare, and the wise use of leisure time."

Future Farmers Convert Chapter House — The Smoky Mountains National Park Chapter of Future Farmers of America, Waynesville, N. C., have made available their chapter house as a community recreation center for the town school. Square dances, ball room dancing and other forms of recreation are sponsored every week. At present the building is also used for health and defense training in the school. The chapter house which is in the shape of a Maltese Cross was built by the Future Farmers.

Safety in Winter Fun

(Continued from page 544)

bers, after that member has attended two consecutive meetings.

Ten service points are given for playground duty (patrolling sliding areas).

Ten points for calling members to special meetings.

One point for cutting and sanding wooden badge.

Five points for "burning" badge with emblem.

One point for mounting badge on pin.

Ten points for bringing in accident reports from the newspapers with a written notation on how that accident could have been prevented.

Twenty-five points for writing the monthly Coast Guard letter.

Five points for First Aid Rules.

Ten points for bandages.

Ten points for correctly teaching bandages.

It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

(Continued from page 572)

pears, and Concord grapes were exhibited for the first time at the early shows of this Society. Its library is the largest of its kind in America. The

Society maintains an employment bureau for gardeners; fifteen organizations have headquarters or meetings at its Horticultural Hall; there are two annual flower shows. With a membership of about 7,000, the Society encourages school children by exhibiting their garden products.

Massachusetts Audubon Society, (1896), the oldest state Audubon Society in the United States, conducts many educational projects, including nature-lore and conservation in eighty biweekly classes in Massachusetts schools. It publishes a 40-page bulletin and the nationally known colored bird charts which are useful for games. The Society's therapy program for army patients at Lovell General Hospital, Fort Devens, is a forerunner of what must be emphasized in the future.

"*National Parks in Wartime.*" The stress of war has reduced travel to parks to 27 per cent of peak figure of 22 million visitors in 1941. Since Pearl Harbor two million members of the armed forces have visited national parks. "Most of the people who visit parks . . . are impelled to visit them because of the quest for a supreme experience. . . . If we can remember this, we can remain true to our high calling as trustees for the greater things of America," by Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service, in an article in *American Forests*, August 1943.

How Shall We Curb Delinquency?

(Continued from page 560)

or supervisors, or play leaders to meet the needs in any part of the country. Because of the difficulty presented in getting under way a new municipal service requiring skilled personnel that is difficult to secure, the trend throughout the country has been toward the creation of a recreation commission to concentrate on the development of this service just as it became necessary long ago to have a school board to concentrate on the task of public education.

A recreation commission must be in a strong position so that it can make use of all available municipal properties and all school properties. It must have broad powers. It must have adequate funds.

Cincinnati's Experience

In Cincinnati, the Recreation Commission spends \$300,000 a year as its operating budget, a sum equal to that spent by the Park Board. In addition to the \$300,000 operating budget, the Commission



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spends annually \$50,000 of bond funds for rehabilitation of buildings and grounds on recreation areas. It has spent more than \$6,000,000 in the past eleven years in federal and city relief funds and in city bond funds in land acquisition and improvements for recreation. It has increased its recreation areas from 350 to 1,000 acres; its playgrounds for twenty-seven to forty-nine with an average of over six acres for each neighborhood playground. It has increased its district playfields from two to seven, averaging twenty acres apiece. It has spent over \$1,000,000 in improving a single 200-acre recreation field.

In its highest delinquency neighborhood, the West End, the Recreation Commission has spent \$1,000,000 on land acquisition alone. This year it is opening in this district a new \$400,000 recreation center with a fine community house and three outdoor standard swimming pools. Within a few months it will start acquiring in the West End section, another center costing over \$200,000 for the land alone. A third center is planned in this area to cover six acres and cost over \$400,000. Fourteen high school and elementary school grounds have been leased to the Recreation Commission and more than \$1,000,000 has been spent by the Commission on their improvement. In acquiring new neighborhood playgrounds with municipal funds, the Recreation Commission has followed the policy of locating these immediately adjoining schools so that they do double duty, serving the children during school hours and the community during out of school hours.

Cincinnati, like many other cities having a Recreation Commission, conducts a nation-wide examination under Civil Service in order to select its director. The job of director is regarded as being a task quite as difficult as that of the Superintendent of Schools.

In conclusion, I would like to ask our Columbus Town Meeting of the Air to consider the possibilities of municipal recreation service in connection with the postwar planning that is receiving atten-

tion not only in Columbus but in the state, the nation, and in the world. Recreation is being given a large place in this planning. Columbus can create new values in real estate as well as in the lives of its people by making broad plans for the redevelopment and modernization of the city as a whole in the postwar period to make it, as the capital of Ohio, the best laid out city in this state.

Perhaps the most important municipal task before us in Columbus is to reconstruct our capital city along lines that will make it a better city to live in—a better place for children to grow up in—a place where every child will have adequate recreation facilities and leadership, and where every neighborhood and every block is organized to help the child become a better citizen.

Merit Awards in the Recreation Program

(Continued from page 551)

portant observation. Unless the personnel is capable of performing the activities outlined in the plan, success will be difficult.

The plan is workable and in our case is playing an important part in our program. The plan should be used as an adjunct to the program and should not be the total program. We feel that the original objectives of education, progression, selling recreation to the community, and developing leadership have been attained.

From an administrative standpoint, many concomitant results have been observed in addition to those outlined. The activities outlined in the plan are a good basis for a planned program of recreation and can be used as fundamental guides for workers in recreation. Workers who have tried the plan state that it gives them a planned program and also a good perspective of the activities which can be carried on for their recreational values. Many workers have undertaken the plan as a means of self-improvement in their work. Any administrator of recreation can handily use the plan as a guide to workers on the staff and feel sure that there will be enough activity on the playgrounds to keep everybody busy.

Finally, I should like to add that the plan has worked with us after three years of effort. One should not expect complete success the first year. Every child who participates in the plan becomes educated to the fun of playing and develops a feeling of belonging to a playground as a leader. When he becomes the citizen of tomorrow he will be a friend of recreation.

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This book contains much of the material presented by Frank Staples at the institutes he conducts as Director of Arts and Crafts of the National Recreation Association. Some of the projects described have appeared in material sent out in the Association's Bulletin Service.

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Planning and People

(Continued from page 568)

ten years after the war to more than three hundred thousand. He said that this would mean a possible increase in the number of dwellings required by thirty to forty thousand more than exist now; also, that, based on past experience, there would be an increase in the number of automobiles owned by citizens to the extent of twenty to twenty-five thousand. There would be a similar increase in the use of all public utilities such as water, lights, and telephone, and also in the service rendered by the city.

In soliciting the participation of the citizens in the formulation of plans for post-war projects, it was pointed out that the City Planning Board and the City Commissioners need the benefit of ideas and thoughts of all citizens. The results of this newspaper poll indicated clearly that the Miamians who responded gave careful and unselfish thought to the projects that would be most beneficial to the greatest number of people. The members of the Planning Board feel that the results of this poll will be of material assistance in planning post-war projects.

Volley Ball in 1944

(Continued from page 548)

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To the Ladies!

(Continued from page 547)

which so many of these famous women advocated in their crusades for higher education. Thus, a plate of old-fashioned sandwiches cut in the shapes of the illustrious women might be placed before a sign reading, "Psychology course—register here." A gayly arranged platter of carrot strips, celery, and homemade pickles will come under the heading of "Botany classes." Beside the sign reading "Geography," place steaming cups of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate.

And just to add a decorative touch in honor of the women suffragettes, how about cardboard boxes draped in red, white, and blue crepe paper and lettered "Ballot Boxes." These can be filled with crunchy, homemade cookies, bright red apples, and assorted hard candies.

All good things must come to an end, so a few minutes before your guests are ready to leave, a

few choruses of "God Bless America" and "The Star-Spangled Banner," sung by everyone will supply the perfect departure note.

You Asked for It!

(Continued from page 574)

organizations may have the use of parts of school buildings on permit from the schools direct or a local recreation department. Baltimore has a very good arrangement under which there is no rental but simply the payment of a \$10 breakage fee from which the school people would be reimbursed in the event of damage. The responsibility for issuing the permit is lodged with the Department of Recreation.

Finally, I would like to suggest consideration of the employment, possibly under the partial auspices of the Council, of directors or workers at large. Such workers, as in San Francisco, are directly employed by the municipal recreation department and operate in more difficult neighborhoods of the

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A digest of this pamphlet is available under the title, *Standards—Playgrounds, Playfields, Recreation Buildings, Indoor Recreation Facilities*. Price 10 cents.

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city. Their job is to discover boys and girls before they get too deeply into trouble and relate them to existing agencies, public or private, in order to find for the youngsters constructive interests. They deal with both groups and individuals. They are particularly effective in delinquency prevention.

The "Coop"

(Continued from page 539)

Since only a week remained before the opening of the new center, many of the adults interested in the project were doubtful whether the center could be open on that date. But not the young people! The clean-up committee immediately secured the help of Mr. E. F. Furth, manual training teacher at the Senior High School, and went to work. One hundred and fifty members and their friends attended the opening dance, which officially launched the Coop in its new quarters and initiated the fall and winter activities. It was unanimously voted that the entertainment committee selected to conduct the dance did a "grand job"!

Following the opening of the center, many meetings of the Junior Board have been held at which policies have been formulated and committees appointed.

Functioning Committees

- A membership and door committee responsible for keeping up the membership and for checking in members at the entrance to the clubrooms
- A committee to take charge of Saturday morning cleaning
- A committee on sales of soft drinks at the bar
- A committee to supervise the game room

Rules of the Coop

All application blanks from new members must be endorsed by a member of the Coop.

Membership cards issued each month shall be of a different color to make checking at the door easier.

Absolutely no gambling will be permitted.

Each member should carry his membership card with him, and when signing out for game equipment release the card as security.

Bottle tops may be used only at the card tables.

A guest may be brought once but will not be admitted again unless he becomes a member.

All servicemen will be admitted free.

The Junior Board has the right to expel any member who does not cooperate in keeping these rules or maintaining the Coop headquarters a place to be proud of. A warning will be given, but if a second offense occurs membership will be taken away.

Recent Developments

The director of recreation has been selected treasurer of the Coop, and all checks are countersigned by either the president, secretary, or membership chairman.

Parents and friends of members of the Coop have donated floor and table lamps, chairs, couches, curtains, and other articles of furniture. Although the help of these adults is greatly appreciated, the young people themselves have assumed responsibility through the Junior Board for policies, plans, and management. They believe that the success or failure of the center rests entirely on their shoulders. The club is theirs. It is something they all want, and they are solidly behind it. They are, however, considering asking adults to serve on a Senior Board and are working in problems of relationships.

During the first month the membership grew to 236 and the following functions were held: dances after home high school football games and a harvest dance. The entertainment committee is planning a hay ride, and a "Hen-Brings-Rooster" party Thanksgiving eve.

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of
Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

The American City, November 1943

War Recreation in Colorado Springs, by George L. Nichols

National Humane Review, November 1943

Emotional Responses of Children to Animal Stories, by Ursula Bringham

PAMPHLETS

A Procedure for Community Post-War Planning

Jobs and production at war's end. Albert Lea, Minnesota, charts a course. Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, D. C.

A Treatise on Swimming Pool Design, by Louis J. Day and C. E. Stedman with the cooperation of the Engineering and Research Departments of the Josam Manufacturing Company, Cleveland, Ohio. Price \$1.00

"Americans All—Immigrants All"

U. S. Office of Education, Educational Radio Script and Transcription Exchange, Washington, D. C. A series of 26 thirty-minute dramatizations presenting the story of the contributions of various cultural groups to the social, economic and political development of the United States. Price per program \$4.75

Columbia Basin Joint Investigation, Washington: Rural Recreational Areas and Plans

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 42 pp.

Community Service

A review of eight years of community life at Hillside Homes, Bronx, N. Y. Price 50 cents

Games and Songs in Wartime

Wartime Recreation Committee, N. Y. State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

OCD Script Catalog, November 1943

Distributed by the Educational Script and Transcription Exchange, U. S. Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C.

Old Age in New York City, by Helen Hardy Brunot
Welfare Council of New York City, 44 East 23rd Street, New York 10

Puppets in Occupational Therapy, by Marjorie Batchelder
Department of Fine Arts, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio

Recreation in Cooperatives, by Ruth Chorpenning Norris
Reprint from *The Journal of Educational Sociology*, April 1943

Recreation Tackles Wartime Problems, November 1943
Ninth annual report of the Chicago Recreation Commission

Understanding Juvenile Delinquency

Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. Publication 300

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The Stars and Stripes Revue

(Continued from page 571)

primary purpose of the club is to give young people interested in the theater as a hobby an opportunity to enjoy dramatics under trained supervision. Some of the members are taking an interest in the activity for the first time. Others have been members for several years. Recruits for the shows are often found among church and school groups, as well as in local department stores and industries.

Many recruits are "discovered" in the Amateur Nites which are presented outdoors on the playgrounds. These shows draw a heavier attendance than any other activity at Elizabeth's playgrounds. Spotlights, gay costumes, dancing, singing, music, and comedy combine to make these programs gala and satisfying affairs.

The Amateur Nite is not only a culmination of the summer playground season for groups interested in dramatics, but it frequently is the major event in the entire playground program. The Dramatic Club then offers an opportunity for talented performers to follow up this special interest in a supervised group. And at the same time, such

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a club provides a medium for informing the public about the drama activity of the Recreation Department.

The army shows put on by the Club have been in constant demand throughout the state. Director Orlando believes it is because of their essential simplicity. He insists that a talented amateur group possesses the light touch, enthusiasm, and naturalness that captivates audiences. In army camps the youngsters often come up against hardened show watchers, but they soon "melt." This revue of youth, beauty and talent has the spontaneity and love of pure fun which professional performers often lack. In these qualities an amateur group has the advantage — enthusiasm, naturalness, freshness, and vigor. And the troupers from Elizabeth's Midtown Community Center are giving the Army a regular two-hour demonstration of amateur talent at its best.

He Works to Prevent Delinquency

(Continued from page 558)

police office, which is located in an office building and not near the jail. The boy denied stealing the articles, but after an hour with the chief of police, decided he should return all of the articles to the local merchants. Within twenty-four hours the boy had returned or made arrangements to pay for stolen property from twelve of the local merchants, some of whom did not know he had stolen from them.

Mr. Janes is able to gain the cooperation of the merchants and the newspaper so that the public understands his program. Sullivan is in need of some type of community recreation and the chief of police is trying to organize a recreation board. He hopes to have this board work out a program similar to the teen town program of other cities.

The Division for Delinquency Prevention of the State of Illinois is cooperating wholeheartedly with Mr. Janes, and under its auspices he speaks before civic organizations and other groups.

Recreation and Industry

(Continued from page 557)

recreation program is not doing "business as usual."

Today, in this comprehensive program, physical fitness groups are functioning. Phases of the Victory Corps program are being carried out in school and recreation groups. Furniture repair and the making of articles for home use now have a real significance in crafts. Music and morale go hand in hand. An audio-visual program of movie

shorts brings a message weekly to adult groups. These sessions are followed by old-time get-togethers, professionally known as "social recreation" periods.

Recently the department has taken over the inauguration, organization, and supervision of full time nursery schools operated for children whose parents are at work during the day. Also a full-time food economist has been added to the staff in conjunction with the sponsoring of a broad nutrition program and the organization of "Health for Victory" clubs.

And so it goes, but most significant of all is the fact that during the second year of the program, just completed, there has been a 30 per cent increase in participations among an estimated population of 30,000.

Making Reports

Industry quite properly expects the recreation house to be kept in order. It deserves to be informed through clean-cut publicity and reports on the progress of the program. Policies and projects should be pictured in an interesting way. From the department's point of view, this is sound practice. Comparative activity, as well as functional classification costs, are significant. Facts such as "one out of every three persons participates" represent pertinent information. Simple human interest stories often outweigh dry statistics.

Good publicity encourages observation of activities as well as participation. Recreation, when attractively packaged, has news value to the radio and press. In the program described, three weekly newspapers devote separately a page to departmental activities.

When the enthusiasm of management, engendered by such methods, reaches the point that a sound film with commentator, depicting the program, is produced, it is evident that these efforts are not in vain.

In summary it can be stated that here is a company which, from the beginning, was established through the cooperative efforts of employees and management. Throughout the years, as the company grew and developed, so did the communities in which the employees lived. Education, health, welfare, housing, and other community services were expanded. It was only logical that recreation should fit into this plan of development—recreation—not primarily for increased production, morale, physical fitness, or safety—but recreation for what it means to the people and their children.

Wilmington Creates a Recreation Department

THE CITY COUNCIL of Wilmington, North Carolina, included in its 1943-44 budget an item of \$16,000 with which to establish and operate the city's first complete Recreation Department. Jesse A. Reynolds, former Superintendent of Recreation for Richmond, Virginia, was appointed to the position of Superintendent of Recreation and began to organize the department on August 23, 1943. Among his first tasks was included a complete survey of the city's recreation facilities, neighborhood resources, and potentialities in connection with application for federal funds under the Lanham Act. The application was approved in October, and a \$38,810 grant was made available November 1, 1943, to supplement city funds in giving recreation opportunities to Wilmington's many defense workers, armed service personnel, and other citizens of the community.

At the present time the staff of the Recreation Department is composed of twenty-four persons including, among others, the Superintendent, one supervisor, eight full-time directors, and eight part-time directors. Supervised programs for children have been started each afternoon from 3:00 to 6:00 at six locations. In addition, dancing instruction is offered persons of all ages at different times during the week, and night programs are scheduled at seven centers five days per week for adults and teen-agers above sixteen years of age.

The ready cooperation of the County School Board, which operates all the city schools, has proved very helpful in making available school playgrounds and other facilities for use by the city Recreation Department. Similarly, the local Housing Authority has turned the recreation facilities at its four community centers in the city over to the Recreation Department for supervision and use in carrying out its program. The Authority maintains the buildings and furnishes some of the equipment while the Recreation Department plans the activities. The cooperation between the city Recreation Department on the one hand and the County School Board and the Housing Authority on the other is a fine example of constructive intergovernmental relationships.

The city has been divided into neighborhood centers, each with its own advisory council composed of six or eight citizens, including two from the teen age group and one or two from older age

Attention! Recreation Leaders Do You Have These Important Books?

Arts and Crafts: A Practical Handbook

By MARGUERITE ICKIS

A recent reviewer says: "This book is so diversified in content that anyone could profit by its instruction." It is a manual of first importance, a comprehensive reference book for both beginners and teachers. Detailed directions and plentiful illustrations, patterns and diagrams cover a variety of subjects including Pottery, Leathercraft, Weaving, Puppetry, Metalcraft, Papercraft, Silk Screen, Textile Printing, Whittling, Printing Press and Bookbinding. An excellent bibliography is included. Here is a book that should be at hand for ready reference by every recreation leader.

6" x 9", Cloth, Illustrated, \$3.00

Nature in Recreation

By MARGUERITE ICKIS

If you want to introduce nature to boys and girls in a friendly, intimate fashion, this is the book for you. The author makes nature study fun by correlating it with camping, handicraft, games, dramatics, music, dancing and aquatics. Every point is clearly explained and illustrated.

6" x 9", Paper, Illustrated, \$1.00

It's Fun to Make Things

By MARTHA PARKHILL and DOROTHY SPAETH

In this appealing book the authors show how to make useful articles from inexpensive and often discarded materials. All the steps in making each article are described briefly and clearly and, with the help of the fine illustrations, anyone can follow them easily. Craft leaders will find that children will welcome these crafts as real fun and will be proud of the finished articles.

8vo. Cloth, Illustrated, \$2.00

The Party Book

By MARY BREEN

Here is a complete handbook of what to do and how to do it on every social occasion. It contains party programs for young and old, for special occasions and holidays, for novelty dances with costumes and decorations, for banquets, picnics and outdoor parties, and for formal and informal gatherings. Its completely planned menus and exact recipes are invaluable to the party planner. No recreation leader should be without this valuable book.

8vo. Cloth, Illustrated, \$2.50

The Children's Party Book

By MARY BREEN

This is a how-to-do and how-to-make book of games, decorations and favors. Each party is planned completely from the time the party is first thought of to the moment when the last guest leaves. Suggestions are given for party settings, but the book is full of ideas which can be adapted for rainy days or other times when children gather. Most of the invitations, decorations and favors are the kind the children can make themselves. The text is fully illustrated with specific as well as decorative drawings.

8vo. Cloth, Illustrated, \$2.50

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groups. Athletic leagues are being formed and their teams will compete in such sports as basketball, volley ball, touch football, and baseball.

In addition to the activities mentioned the Recreation Department has taken over the operation of the municipally-owned golf course. Similarly, it now operates a center for men in the armed forces on a seven day per week basis. This service center was one of the first in the nation constructed from local funds for local operation.

Drama in Juvenile Delinquency Prevention

(Continued from page 564)

The third year, Miss Annie Mitchell, an elementary teacher enthusiastic over juvenile creative work, guided the dramatic activity. The closing project was "Plantation Days," a two act play written, costumed, and staged by seventh and eighth grade actors. One young carpenter frightened us by gashing a finger as he made properties, and the costumers pricked fingers in spite of careful instruction by their home economics teacher. But the play was a great success. Admission, at fifteen cents a family, as in the case of the Indian pageant added many dollars to the "Fund."

Next, a year of nature study and collecting was climaxed by an exhibition of hobbies and a dramatic program on Theodore Roosevelt's birthday. Awards were purchased from the fund.

Other plays followed — "Merrie England in Sherwood Forest," W. B. Yeats' "Land of the Heart's Desire," and many more. Members of our adult Community Players, some of them formerly professional actors, gave invaluable assistance at "polishing off" time.

By this time high schools, colleges, and boarding schools were claiming many of our fine young actors; Miss Mitchell became an English teacher in the high school. So we shifted our emphasis to older members of the community and founded Visalia's Creative Arts Fellowship, now in its eighth year, with groups in creative writing, music, drama, arts and crafts, nature craft, and threadcraft.

Perhaps we weren't altogether successful in attaining our objective where juvenile delinquency was concerned — so many steps are involved in bringing about any desirable human achievement. But we did prove to our satisfaction that one of the fundamentally important steps is organized dramatic fun!

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Arts and Crafts: A Practical Handbook

By Marguerite Ickis. A. S. Barnes & Company, New York 18, New York. \$2.50.

IN THIS VOLUME the author has given us a book which presents simple basic techniques and which will serve as an exceedingly helpful reference book for beginners and for craft program directors. Miss Ickis first suggests how to start a craft program and gives some information on design and color. From that point on the book is devoted to a practical presentation of a number of crafts and how to do them. Among these crafts are papercraft, block printing, silk screen printing, a hand printing press, bookbinding, weaving, leathercraft, woodworking, metal work for beginners, pottery and puppetry. The explicit directions and suggestions given to go with the many illustrations make this a truly practical handbook.

Children's Games from Many Lands

By Nina Millen. Friendship Press, New York City. \$1.00.

THERE ARE two hundred and sixty-two games from fifty-five different countries described in this book. Many of them represent new play material from such far-away-places as Iran, Burma and Liberia. Games played by the American Indians, Southern Mountaineers, French Canadians and Eskimos are included.

Recreation leaders seeking new material will find this volume full of suggestions and in playing the games described, children of the United States will gain knowledge about the play ways of children of other lands.

Bowling for All

By Joe Falcaro and Murray Goodman. A. S. Barnes & Company, New York 18, New York. \$1.00.

THE HISTORY and principles of bowling, the necessary equipment, the various types of deliveries, and similar techniques are given in the volume. Other matters covered include the subject of bowling etiquette, how to win at duck pins, and the part women have taken in the games. Rules and regulations of the American Bowling Congress are given as are records and championships.

The Knapsack Book

Compiled by Frederick Drimmer. Greenberg: Publisher, New York City. \$1.50.

HERE IS A BOOK for servicemen containing in a handy-to-carry volume enough material for many hours of solid entertainment. There are mystery stories, jokes, and cartoons, pencil and paper games, crossword puzzles, true and false statements, quizzes, anagrams, word puzzles, mental antics, favorite songs and poems and other material designed to provide Uncle Sam's Armed Forces with something enjoyable to do and something enjoyable to read.

Music for All of Us

By Leopold Stokowski. Simon and Schuster, New York. \$2.50.

WHAT MUSIC CAN MEAN to the human spirit and how its values can be attained are presented by Mr. Stokowski in this book which opens the door to an appreciation of music through the author's interpretation of the "architecture" of music. That music is a birthright in which all can freely share is Mr. Stokowski's thesis and he develops it in a way which even a man untrained in musical techniques can understand.

Airplanes and How They Fly

By Marshall McClintock. Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York City. \$2.00

THIS PRIMER ON AVIATION is addressed to younger boys and girls who want to understand why and how a plane flies. It contains a brief history of man's conquest of the air, a clear statement of the principles of aerodynamics, describes the chief types of planes, and offers an exciting glimpse of planes of the future.

The Free Company

Edited by James Boyd. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York City. \$2.00.

THE FREE COMPANY" is an organization of outstanding American writers who volunteered to contribute their talents and abilities to dramatize the meaning of America. In doing this each one wrote a radio play about a different aspect of Americanism such as freedom of speech and of the press and racial freedom. These plays were broadcast weekly, and as one followed another gained a tremendous audience throughout the land.

In addition to the plays, production experts of the Columbia Broadcasting Company have supplied a practical supplementary section showing how the plays can be presented by schools, amateur groups, community centers and private homes.

A Reader's Guide to Education

National Education Association, Washington, D. C.

THIS PAMPHLET sponsored cooperatively by the National Education Association and the Book-of-the-Month Club presents an annotated, classified and selected list of books about the background and problems of American education. The books were chosen by the poll of educators and librarians conducted by the National Education Association. It contains an introduction by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Copies of the pamphlet are obtainable from the National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., at no cost except five cents for mailing, which should be enclosed in the request.

The Health of Children in Occupied Europe.

International Labor Office, Montreal, Canada. 25 cents.

As the first survey of its kind in the field this report of the alarming situation in which the occupied countries find themselves merits careful study. The report describes conditions and presents the problems which will have to be faced immediately after the war in rebuilding the health of the children of Europe.

Square Knot, Tatting, Fringe and Needle Work.

By Raoul Graumont and John Hensel. Cornell Maritime Press, 241 West 23rd Street, New York City. \$1.50.

When the rudiments of square knotting have been mastered the most intricate designs may be worked out, even by the beginner. Among the designs that appear in this book, many of them for the first time, are various types of handbags, belts, camera cases, cigarette cases, wrist-watch straps, slippers, mats, and other articles. Full-page illustrations accompany every section of the text.

Painting for Beginners.

Jan Gordon. Halcyon House, Garden City, New York. \$1.49.

The fundamentals of color, composition, and technique are simply and fully explained in this book for beginners, and there are nineteen reproductions of famous paintings which represent many different artistic phases and techniques. These are discussed by the author in detail both from the point of view of their own intrinsic merit and the lessons which they teach.

The Technique of Stage Make-Up.

By Jack Stuart Knapp. Walter H. Baker Company, Publishers, Boston, Massachusetts. \$1.50.

The material in this booklet, which represents much research on the part of the author and many years of practical experience, is presented in so clear a manner that even a novice can become proficient in the application of make-up. General principles of make-up are outlined and these are followed by a description of all the various types and techniques of make-up.

Rounds and Canons.

Arranged and Edited by Harry Robert Wilson. Hall & McCreary Company, Chicago, Illinois. \$.60.

Such famous rounds as "Three Blind Mice," "Are You Sleeping?" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," are to be found in this collection, but there are also a number of new compositions which will be great fun for your party. Some of the canons included are among the treasures available in this form. Mr. Wilson has suggested a number of methods of singing the rounds and canons.

Fun with a Pencil.

By Andrew Loomis. The Viking Press. \$3.00.

It is Mr. Loomis' belief that the average person can easily learn to draw, and accordingly he presents a simple step-by-step method which has proved its practical worth with many individuals who were sure they were totally lacking in ability. Hundreds of illustrations and a few simple sentences lead the reader almost without his knowing into a new field of expression.

20 Prize-Winning Non-Royalty One-Act Plays.

Compiled by Betty Smith. Greenberg: Publisher. \$2.50.

As varied as the theater itself are the types of plays assembled in this volume. They have been carefully selected from a large number of plays which have won awards, and among the playwrights represented are Paul Green, Fred Koch, Jr., Maxwell Anderson, Barrett Clark, Josephina Niggli, and other well-known writers. All the plays in the volume may be produced without royalty payments by amateur groups who do not charge admission.

Christian Youth in Wartime Service.

By Herbert L. Minard. The International Council of Religious Education, 203 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. \$.10.

The suggestions offered in this little guide for community action are applicable to all young people who want to serve their communities in wartime and to find personal satisfaction and growth through such service. The value of recreation for the young people themselves, as well as for those whom they are serving, is stressed throughout.

The Theatre Book of the Year 1942-1943.

A Record and an Interpretation. By George Jean Nathan. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. \$3.00.

A survey of the American theater and its productions from June 1942 to June 1943, this volume covers every play produced professionally during this period and discusses typical plays in the various experimental theaters. Mr. Nathan adds to the record of producers, actors, and performances his own pointed criticism and his own nominations for the best plays of the season.

Educators Guide to Free Films.

Compiled and edited by Mary Foley Herkeimer and John W. Diffor. Educators Progress League, Randolph, Wisconsin. \$3.00.

The third annual edition of this annotated guide lists over 2,000 films, most of which are 16 mm. silent and sound, though more than 500 are 35 mm. silent and sound films. Three thousand five hundred thirty reels are included and about 150 slide films. Among the subjects under which films are classified are Wartime Education, Applied Arts, Fine Arts, Health Education, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Songs of Liberty.

Robbins Music Corporation, 799 Seventh Avenue, New York. \$.15.

Songs popular in a number of wars, patriotic songs, songs of the Navy, Marines, Seabees, Army Engineers, and Air Force have been brought together in this collection of more than forty songs.

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